

VETO MESSAGE: No

GOVERNOR'S PRESS RELEASE ON SIGNING: Yes

FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:

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REPORTS: No

HEARINGS: No

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES: No

CL/JA

P.L. 2023, CHAPTER 64, *approved June 7, 2023*
Assembly, No. 4055 (*First Reprint*)

1 AN ACT establishing the New Jersey Ireland Trade Commission and
2 supplementing Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6
7 1. a. There is established in, but not of, the Department of
8 State the New Jersey Ireland Trade Commission. The commission
9 shall consist of ¹~~15~~ 23¹ members, to be appointed as follows:

10 ¹~~Two~~ (1) (a) Four¹ members of the Legislature shall be
11 appointed by the President of the Senate, ¹~~neither~~ two¹ of whom
12 shall ¹~~be members of the same political party~~ have current or past
13 involvement in organizations that promote Irish affairs or shall have
14 interest in the well-being of trade relations between New Jersey and
15 Ireland¹; and two members of the Legislature shall be appointed by
16 the ¹~~Speaker of the General Assembly, neither of whom shall be~~
17 members of the same political party Minority Leader of the
18 Senate, both of whom shall have current or past involvement in
19 organizations that promote Irish affairs or shall have interest in the
20 well-being of trade relations between New Jersey and Ireland.

21 (b) Four members of the Legislature shall be appointed by the
22 Speaker of the General Assembly, two of whom shall have current
23 or past involvement in organizations that promote Irish affairs or
24 shall have interest in the well-being of trade relations between New
25 Jersey and Ireland; and two members of the Legislature shall be
26 appointed by the Minority Leader of the General Assembly, both of
27 whom shall have current or past involvement in organizations that
28 promote Irish affairs or shall have interest in the well-being of trade
29 relations between New Jersey and Ireland.

30 (c)¹ The legislative members of the commission shall serve
31 during the two-year legislative term in which the appointments are
32 made.

33 ¹~~(2)~~¹ Eleven members of the commission shall be appointed by
34 the Governor. Six members shall serve for a term of three years
35 and five shall serve for a term of four years. The 11 members thus
36 appointed shall include at least one representative from: a ¹~~State~~
37 public¹ institution of higher education; the New Jersey Chamber of

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

¹Assembly ASL committee amendments adopted January 19, 2023.

1 Commerce, or its successor organization; and at least two public
2 members representing Irish American communities neither of whom
3 shall be members of the same political party.

4 b. All appointments shall be made no later than 90 days
5 following the day of enactment of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
6 before the Legislature as this bill). A vacancy in the membership of
7 the commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original
8 appointment was made.

9 c. Members of the commission shall serve without
10 compensation but may be reimbursed for expenses actually incurred
11 in the performance of their duties, within the limit of funds
12 appropriated to the commission or otherwise made available to it
13 for its purposes.

14 d. The commission shall meet and hold hearings at the places it
15 designates throughout the State.

16

17 2. The ~~1~~¹~~【Governor】~~ President of the Senate¹ shall designate
18 ~~1~~¹~~【a chairperson or】~~ two¹ co-chairpersons from among the
19 ~~1~~¹~~【members of the commission, who shall serve in that capacity at~~
20 ~~the pleasure of the Governor. The chairperson or co-chairpersons,~~
21 ~~as appropriate, may appoint from among the commission members~~
22 ~~subcommittees and subcommittee chairpersons at their discretion.】~~
23 President's appointments, one each from the majority and minority
24 party; and the Speaker of the General Assembly shall designate two
25 co-chairpersons from among the Speaker's appointments, one each
26 from the majority and minority party.¹ A majority of the members
27 of the commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of
28 the business of the commission.

29

30 3. a. The purpose of the New Jersey Ireland Trade
31 Commission shall be to:

32 (1) advance bilateral trade and investment between New Jersey
33 and Ireland;

34 (2) initiate joint action on policy issues of mutual interest to
35 New Jersey and Ireland;

36 (3) promote business and academic exchanges between New
37 Jersey and Ireland;

38 (4) encourage mutual economic support between New Jersey
39 and Ireland;

40 (5) encourage mutual investment in the infrastructure of New
41 Jersey and Ireland; and

42 (6) address such other issues as determined by the commission.

43 b. The commission shall report its findings, results, and
44 recommendations to the Governor, and the Legislature pursuant to
45 section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), within one year of its
46 initial organizational meeting and by February 1st of each
47 succeeding year for the activities of the preceding calendar year.

1 The report shall be in writing and include recommendations as
2 deemed appropriate by the commission to effectuate its purpose, as
3 provided by this section.

4
5 4. The New Jersey Ireland Trade Commission shall be
6 authorized to raise funds, through direct solicitation or other
7 fundraising events, alone, or with other groups, and accept gifts,
8 grants, and bequests from individuals, corporations, foundations,
9 governmental agencies, and public and private organizations and
10 institutions, to defray the commission's administrative expenses and
11 to carry out its purposes as set forth in P.L. , c. (C.)
12 (pending before the Legislature as this bill). The funds, gifts,
13 grants, or bequests received pursuant to this section shall be
14 deposited in an account in the Department of the Treasury and
15 allocated and annually appropriated to the Department of State to
16 defray the commission's administrative expenses and carry out its
17 purposes.

18
19 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

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23

24 Establishes New Jersey Ireland Trade Commission in
25 Department of State.

ASSEMBLY, No. 4055

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 19, 2022

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

Assemblyman WAYNE P. DEANGELO

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes New Jersey Ireland Trade Commission in Department of State.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/16/2022)

1 AN ACT establishing the New Jersey Ireland Trade Commission and
2 supplementing Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. a. There is established in, but not of, the Department of
8 State the New Jersey Ireland Trade Commission. The commission
9 shall consist of 15 members, to be appointed as follows:

10 Two members of the Legislature shall be appointed by the
11 President of the Senate, neither of whom shall be members of the
12 same political party; and two members of the Legislature shall be
13 appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly, neither of
14 whom shall be members of the same political party. The legislative
15 members of the commission shall serve during the two-year
16 legislative term in which the appointments are made.

17 Eleven members of the commission shall be appointed by the
18 Governor. Six members shall serve for a term of three years and
19 five shall serve for a term of four years. The 11 members thus
20 appointed shall include at least one representative from: a State
21 institution of higher education; the New Jersey Chamber of
22 Commerce, or its successor organization; and at least two public
23 members representing Irish American communities neither of whom
24 shall be members of the same political party.

25 b. All appointments shall be made no later than 90 days
26 following the day of enactment of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
27 before the Legislature as this bill). A vacancy in the membership of
28 the commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original
29 appointment was made.

30 c. Members of the commission shall serve without
31 compensation but may be reimbursed for expenses actually incurred
32 in the performance of their duties, within the limit of funds
33 appropriated to the commission or otherwise made available to it
34 for its purposes.

35 d. The commission shall meet and hold hearings at the places it
36 designates throughout the State.

37

38 2. The Governor shall designate a chairperson or co-
39 chairpersons from among the members of the commission, who
40 shall serve in that capacity at the pleasure of the Governor. The
41 chairperson or co-chairpersons, as appropriate, may appoint from
42 among the commission members subcommittees and subcommittee
43 chairpersons at their discretion. A majority of the members of the
44 commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the
45 business of the commission.

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47 3. a. The purpose of the New Jersey Ireland Trade
48 Commission shall be to:

- 1 (1) advance bilateral trade and investment between New Jersey
2 and Ireland;
- 3 (2) initiate joint action on policy issues of mutual interest to
4 New Jersey and Ireland;
- 5 (3) promote business and academic exchanges between New
6 Jersey and Ireland;
- 7 (4) encourage mutual economic support between New Jersey
8 and Ireland;
- 9 (5) encourage mutual investment in the infrastructure of New
10 Jersey and Ireland; and
- 11 (6) address such other issues as determined by the commission.
- 12 b. The commission shall report its findings, results, and
13 recommendations to the Governor, and the Legislature pursuant to
14 section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), within one year of its
15 initial organizational meeting and by February 1st of each
16 succeeding year for the activities of the preceding calendar year.
17 The report shall be in writing and include recommendations as
18 deemed appropriate by the commission to effectuate its purpose, as
19 provided by this section.

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21 4. The New Jersey Ireland Trade Commission shall be
22 authorized to raise funds, through direct solicitation or other
23 fundraising events, alone, or with other groups, and accept gifts,
24 grants, and bequests from individuals, corporations, foundations,
25 governmental agencies, and public and private organizations and
26 institutions, to defray the commission's administrative expenses and
27 to carry out its purposes as set forth in P.L. , c. (C.)
28 (pending before the Legislature as this bill). The funds, gifts,
29 grants, or bequests received pursuant to this section shall be
30 deposited in an account in the Department of the Treasury and
31 allocated and annually appropriated to the Department of State to
32 defray the commission's administrative expenses and carry out its
33 purposes.

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35 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

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38 STATEMENT

39

40 This bill establishes in, but not of, the Department of State the
41 New Jersey Ireland Trade Commission. The commission is to
42 consist of 15 members, to be appointed by the President of the
43 Senate, the Speaker of the General Assembly, and the Governor.

44 The purpose of the New Jersey Ireland Trade Commission is to:

- 45 (1) advance bilateral trade and investment between New Jersey
46 and Ireland;
- 47 (2) initiate joint action on policy issues of mutual interest to
48 New Jersey and Ireland;

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1 (3) promote business and academic exchanges between New
2 Jersey and Ireland;

3 (4) encourage mutual economic support between New Jersey
4 and Ireland;

5 (5) encourage mutual investment in the infrastructure of New
6 Jersey and Ireland; and

7 (6) address any other issues as determined by the commission.

8 The bill requires the commission to report its findings, results,
9 and recommendations to the Governor, and the Legislature within
10 one year of its initial organizational meeting and by February 1st of
11 each succeeding year for the activities of the preceding calendar
12 year.

13 The bill authorizes the New Jersey Ireland Trade Commission to
14 raise funds, through direct solicitation or other fundraising events,
15 alone, or with other groups, and accept gifts, grants, and bequests
16 from individuals, corporations, foundations, governmental agencies,
17 and public and private organizations and institutions, to defray the
18 commission's administrative expenses and to carry out its purposes

ASSEMBLY STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO
ASSEMBLY, No. 4055

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JANUARY 19, 2023

The Assembly State and Local Government Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 4055.

As amended, this bill establishes in, but not of, the Department of State the New Jersey Ireland Trade Commission. The commission is to consist of 23 members to be appointed by the President of the Senate, the minority leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the General Assembly, the minority leader of the General Assembly, and the Governor.

The purpose of the New Jersey Ireland Trade Commission is to:

- advance bilateral trade and investment between New Jersey and Ireland;
- initiate joint action on policy issues of mutual interest to New Jersey and Ireland;
- promote business and academic exchanges between New Jersey and Ireland;
- encourage mutual economic support between New Jersey and Ireland;
- encourage mutual investment in the infrastructure of New Jersey and Ireland; and
- address any other issues as determined by the commission.

The bill requires the commission to report its findings, results, and recommendations to the Governor, and the Legislature within one year of its initial organizational meeting and by February 1st of each succeeding year for the activities of the preceding calendar year.

The bill authorizes the New Jersey Ireland Trade Commission to raise funds, through direct solicitation or other fundraising events, alone, or with other groups, and accept gifts, grants, and bequests from individuals, corporations, foundations, governmental agencies, and public and private organizations and institutions, to defray the commission's administrative expenses and to carry out its purposes.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

(1) increase the membership of the New Jersey Ireland Trade Commission from 15 to 23 members;

(2) provide that the President of the Senate will appoint four members of the Legislature to the commission, two of whom are required to have current or past involvement in organizations that promote Irish affairs or have interest in the well-being of trade relations between New Jersey and Ireland;

(3) provide that the Speaker of the General Assembly will appoint four members of the Legislature to the commission, two of whom are required to have current or past involvement in organizations that promote Irish affairs or have interest in the well-being of trade relations between New Jersey and Ireland;

(4) provide that the Minority Leaders of both the Senate and the General Assembly will each appoint two members to the commission, all of whom are required to have current or past involvement in organizations that promote Irish affairs or shall have interest in the well-being of trade relations between New Jersey and Ireland; and

(5) provide that the committee will consist of four co-chairpersons, two appointed by the President of the Senate and two appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly, with each appointer required to make co-chair appointments from among both the majority and minority party of the respective House.

SENATE STATE GOVERNMENT, WAGERING, TOURISM &
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 4055

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 18, 2023

The Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism and Historic Preservation Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 4055 (1R).

This bill establishes in, but not of, the Department of State the New Jersey Ireland Trade Commission. The commission is to consist of 23 members to be appointed by the President of the Senate, the Minority Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the General Assembly, the Minority Leader of the General Assembly, and the Governor.

The purpose of the New Jersey Ireland Trade Commission is to:

- advance bilateral trade and investment between New Jersey and Ireland;
- initiate joint action on policy issues of mutual interest to New Jersey and Ireland;
- promote business and academic exchanges between New Jersey and Ireland;
- encourage mutual economic support between New Jersey and Ireland;
- encourage mutual investment in the infrastructure of New Jersey and Ireland; and
- address any other issues as determined by the commission.

The bill requires the commission to report its findings, results, and recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature within one year of its initial organizational meeting, and by February 1st of each succeeding year for the activities of the preceding calendar year.

The bill authorizes the New Jersey Ireland Trade Commission to raise funds, through direct solicitation or other fundraising events, alone, or with other groups, and accept gifts, grants, and bequests from individuals, corporations, foundations, governmental agencies, and public and private organizations and institutions, to defray the commission's administrative expenses and to carry out its purposes.

Assembly Bill No. 4055 (1R) is identical to Senate Bill No. 2507 (1R) of the 2022-2023 session.

SENATE, No. 2507

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 12, 2022

Sponsored by:

Senator NIA H. GILL

District 34 (Essex and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes New Jersey Ireland Trade Commission in Department of State.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT establishing the New Jersey Ireland Trade Commission and
2 supplementing Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

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14 whom shall be members of the same political party. The legislative
15 members of the commission shall serve during the two-year
16 legislative term in which the appointments are made.

17 Eleven members of the commission shall be appointed by the
18 Governor. Six members shall serve for a term of three years and
19 five shall serve for a term of four years. The 11 members thus
20 appointed shall include at least one representative from: a State
21 institution of higher education; the New Jersey Chamber of
22 Commerce, or its successor organization; and at least two public
23 members representing Irish American communities neither of whom
24 shall be members of the same political party.

25 b. All appointments shall be made no later than 90 days
26 following the day of enactment of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
27 before the Legislature as this bill). A vacancy in the membership of
28 the commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original
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32 in the performance of their duties, within the limit of funds
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35 d. The commission shall meet and hold hearings at the places it
36 designates throughout the State.

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38 2. The Governor shall designate a chairperson or co-
39 chairpersons from among the members of the commission, who
40 shall serve in that capacity at the pleasure of the Governor. The
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42 among the commission members subcommittees and subcommittee
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44 commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the
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27 to carry out its purposes as set forth in P.L. , c. (C.)
28 (pending before the Legislature as this bill). The funds, gifts,
29 grants, or bequests received pursuant to this section shall be
30 deposited in an account in the Department of the Treasury and
31 allocated and annually appropriated to the Department of State to
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33 purposes.

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35 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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40 This bill establishes in, but not of, the Department of State the
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48 New Jersey and Ireland;

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1 (3) promote business and academic exchanges between New
2 Jersey and Ireland;

3 (4) encourage mutual economic support between New Jersey
4 and Ireland;

5 (5) encourage mutual investment in the infrastructure of New
6 Jersey and Ireland; and

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9 and recommendations to the Governor, and the Legislature within
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18 commission's administrative expenses and to carry out its purposes

SENATE STATE GOVERNMENT, WAGERING, TOURISM &
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO
SENATE, No. 2507

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 18, 2023

The Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism and Historic Preservation Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill No. 2507.

As amended by the committee, this bill establishes in, but not of, the Department of State the New Jersey Ireland Trade Commission. The commission is to consist of 23 members to be appointed by the President of the Senate, the Minority Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the General Assembly, the Minority Leader of the General Assembly, and the Governor.

The purpose of the New Jersey Ireland Trade Commission is to:

- advance bilateral trade and investment between New Jersey and Ireland;
- initiate joint action on policy issues of mutual interest to New Jersey and Ireland;
- promote business and academic exchanges between New Jersey and Ireland;
- encourage mutual economic support between New Jersey and Ireland;
- encourage mutual investment in the infrastructure of New Jersey and Ireland; and
- address any other issues as determined by the commission.

The bill requires the commission to report its findings, results, and recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature within one year of its initial organizational meeting, and by February 1st of each succeeding year for the activities of the preceding calendar year.

The bill authorizes the New Jersey Ireland Trade Commission to raise funds, through direct solicitation or other fundraising events, alone, or with other groups, and accept gifts, grants, and bequests from individuals, corporations, foundations, governmental agencies, and public and private organizations and institutions, to defray the commission's administrative expenses and to carry out its purposes.

As amended by the committee, Senate Bill No. 2507 (1R) is identical to Assembly Bill No. 4055 (1R) of the 2022-2023 session.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The committee amendments:

(1) increase the membership of the New Jersey Ireland Trade Commission from 15 to 23 members;

(2) provide that the President of the Senate will appoint four members of the Legislature to the commission, two of whom are required to have current or past involvement in organizations that promote Irish affairs or have interest in the well-being of trade relations between New Jersey and Ireland;

(3) provide that the Speaker of the General Assembly will appoint four members of the Legislature to the commission, two of whom are required to have current or past involvement in organizations that promote Irish affairs or have interest in the well-being of trade relations between New Jersey and Ireland;

(4) provide that the Minority Leaders of both the Senate and the General Assembly will each appoint two members to the commission, all of whom are required to have current or past involvement in organizations that promote Irish affairs or shall have interest in the well-being of trade relations between New Jersey and Ireland; and

(5) provide that the commission will consist of four co-chairpersons, two appointed by the President of the Senate and two appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly, one each from among the majority and minority party of the respective House.

Governor Murphy Signs Bill Establishing the New Jersey-Ireland Trade Commission

06/7/2023

TRENTON – Governor Phil Murphy, joined by Assemblywoman Carol Murphy, New Jersey Economic Development Authority CEO Tim Sullivan, and Ireland Senator Mark Daly, today signed A4055, which establishes the New Jersey-Ireland Trade Commission. The New Jersey-Ireland Trade Commission will advance the mutual interests of New Jersey and Ireland including bilateral trade and investment opportunities, joint policy action, business and academic exchanges, economic support, and mutual investment in the infrastructures of the regions.

“As a Murphy, it is an honor to bring New Jersey and my native Ireland together for a strategic partnership that will benefit our two regions for generations to come,” said **Governor Murphy**. “Tammy and I have had the pleasure of leading an economic mission to Ireland to meet with leaders across the country in different sectors and industries, and to truly understand what the country has to offer. I am pleased to put pen to paper to mark the start of an official partnership between our two regions and look forward to witnessing what we can accomplish together.”

The Commission, which will be an independent body “in, but not of,” the Department of State, will consist of 23 members – including 11 public members appointed by the Governor, two members of the Legislature appointed by the Senate President, two members of the Legislature appointed by the Senate Minority Leader, four members of the Legislature appointed by the Speaker of the General Assembly, and two members of the Legislature appointed by the Assembly Minority Leader. Each appointee must be selected within 90 days of today’s signing.

The Commission will be tasked with reporting recommendations to the Governor and Legislature within one year of its initial organizational meeting, and by February 1st of each succeeding year.

“We are thrilled to establish this commission to advance bilateral trade and investment between New Jersey and Ireland, promote exchanges, and foster mutual economic support,” said **New Jersey Secretary of State Tahesha Way**. “This initiative will strengthen our ties and create new opportunities for both regions.”

“New Jersey and Ireland are both committed to creating an inclusive and thriving economy – one that supports entrepreneurs and hardworking families,” said **New Jersey Economic Development Authority CEO Tim Sullivan**. “From our trade mission to Ireland last year to the creation of this commission, Governor Murphy is continuing to push forward New Jersey and Ireland’s shared economic goals of strengthening high-growth strategic sectors such as innovation and offshore wind. The New Jersey-Ireland Trade Commission will leverage existing entities resources, including our highly-skilled talent pools, to boost our economies and uplift our residents.”

“This commission is a testament to the rich cultural and historical bonds we share with Ireland, a personal connection to many of us, including me. My great-grandmother was Irish. I am among the many with cultural ties in New Jersey to Ireland. With the signing of the bill establishing the New Jersey Ireland Trade Commission, we are embarking on a new chapter in our relationship with Ireland,” said **Senator Nia Gill**. “This commission will strengthen our cultural and economic ties, building upon existing trade deals and fostering new investments. It will also encourage academic exchanges, opening new avenues for collaboration and mutual growth. As we move forward, I am confident that this initiative will lead to a flourishing partnership between New Jersey and Ireland, bringing about shared prosperity and deeper understanding between our communities.”

“Last year, I visited Ireland with a legislative delegation and witnessed firsthand the opportunities that exist for collaboration between our states. I am confident that the New Jersey Ireland Trade Commission will not only promote the development of trade, culture, and capital investment, but it will create an entirely new level of engagement between our largest most prominent industries,” said **Senator Anthony M. Bucco**. “As we develop and grow this partnership, sectors like technology, financial services, and agriculture will benefit immensely by becoming even more intertwined. I look forward to seeing the great things that New Jersey and Ireland will accomplish when we work together.”

“This commission grows our State’s economy by forming a stronger partnership with Ireland for businesses and academic institutions,” said **Assemblywoman Carol Murphy**. “With our proximity to Ireland, this gives us the unique occasion to expand opportunities for our business owners, students, and all New Jerseyans.”

“I am excited that the state has taken the step towards creating a formal partnership with our friends in Ireland to support economic growth. Last year, I had the opportunity to visit Ireland with my colleagues in the Legislature as part of the national American Irish State Legislators Caucus and we were all struck by how Ireland so quickly bounced back from the pandemic. Ireland became the fastest growing economy in the EU,” said **Assemblywoman Vicky Flynn**. “I believe it is in our state’s interest for this commission to be used to strengthen the bond that already exists between New Jersey and Ireland, and advance mutually beneficial initiatives and investments to boost both our economies.”

“We welcome the creation of the New Jersey Ireland Trade Commission to facilitate increased trade and investment between our two states,” said **Wesley Mathews, President and CEO of Choose New Jersey**. “The Choose New Jersey Ireland Center will greatly benefit by having a state partner to collaborate with in growing trade ties between two innovation-based economies.”

“Our thriving academic and business ecosystems are a credit to the generations of Irish that came here before and built strong communities,” said **Steve Lenox, Director of the New Jersey Ireland Center**. “Whether it’s the technology, life sciences, clean energy, or any of the other thriving business sectors that spur our state’s economy, this commission will play a key role in letting Irish companies and entrepreneurs know that they have a welcoming home in New Jersey.”

“I was pleased to learn that Governor Phil Murphy has signed a bill establishing the New Jersey-Ireland Trade Commission. This bill indicates a strong desire to deepen two-way trade investment and education links between Ireland and the State of New Jersey,” said **Ireland’s Minister of State for the Diaspora Seán Fleming**. “New Jersey has more than 9 million inhabitants - of which approx. 1.1m claim Irish heritage - and it ranks in the top ten biggest economies of the United States. The state is an important source of investment into Ireland and a growing number of Irish-origin companies also have operations there.”