

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 1087

FINAL READING

Introduced by Arch, 14; Cavanaugh, J., 9; Andersen, 49; Cavanaugh, M., 6.

Read first time January 15, 2026

Committee: Government, Military and Veterans Affairs

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to the Nebraska-Ireland Commission; to create
- 2 the Nebraska-Ireland Commission; and to create a fund.
- 3 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 **Section 1.** (1) There is hereby established the Nebraska-Ireland
2 Commission.

3 (2) The commission shall consist of the following members:

4 (a) The Director of the Department of Agriculture or the director's
5 designee;

6 (b) The Director of the Department of Economic Development or the
7 director's designee;

8 (c) A representative of a Nebraska postsecondary educational
9 institution to be appointed by the Governor;

10 (d) Two representatives from a Nebraska business association such as
11 a trade organization, economic development organization, or chamber of
12 commerce appointed by the Governor;

13 (e) A representative of a Nebraska nonprofit organization offering
14 child and family services and community programs and interested in
15 enhancing relationships between Nebraska and Ireland, including
16 furthering trade, appointed by the Governor;

17 (f) A member of the public who is interested in enhancing
18 relationships between Nebraska and Ireland, including furthering trade,
19 appointed by the Governor; and

20 (g) Three members of the Nebraska Legislature, one from each of the
21 Congressional districts, who shall serve as nonvoting, ex officio members
22 appointed by the Executive Board of the Legislative Council.

23 (3) Each member shall serve for a term of two years and may be
24 reappointed without limit. If a position becomes vacant, such position
25 must be filled for the duration of the term in the same manner as the
26 original appointment.

27 (4) Members shall serve on the commission without compensation but
28 may be compensated for expenses incurred in the performance of official
29 duties as provided in sections 81-1174 to 81-1177 if funds are available.

30 (5) The commission shall elect a chairperson and vice-chairperson
31 from among its members. The commission shall hold meetings at least once

1 each quarter at the call of the chairperson. The committee may conduct
2 its meetings by virtual conferencing as defined in section 84-1409. A
3 majority of the members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of
4 the business of the commission.

5 (6) The purpose of the Nebraska-Ireland Commission shall be to
6 advance, promote, and encourage business and other mutually beneficial
7 activities between Nebraska and Ireland, including:

8 (a) Bilateral trade and investment;

9 (b) Joint action on policy issues of mutual interest;

10 (c) Business and academic exchanges;

11 (d) Mutual economic support between Nebraska and Ireland;

12 (e) Mutual investment in the infrastructure of Nebraska and Ireland;

13 and

14 (f) Other issues as determined by the commission.

15 (7) For administrative and budgetary purposes, the commission shall
16 be housed within the Department of Economic Development. Additional
17 support to facilitate the work of the commission may be requested from
18 appropriate federal and state agencies and other stakeholders as
19 appropriate.

20 (8) The Nebraska-Ireland Fund is hereby established. The Department
21 of Economic Development shall administer the fund. The purpose of the
22 fund is to defray the administrative expenses of the commission and to
23 support the commission's efforts to carry out its purposes. The fund
24 shall consist of transfers authorized by the Legislature, funds raised by
25 or on behalf of the commission, funds from the federal government, gifts,
26 grants, and funds from other sources. Any money in the fund available for
27 investment shall be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to
28 the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds
29 Investment Act. Investment earnings from investment money in the fund
30 shall be credited to the fund.

31 (9) On or before December 1, 2027, and on or before December 31 of

1 each year thereafter, the commission shall submit an annual report to the
2 Governor and the Legislature containing the commission's findings,
3 results, and recommendations. The report submitted to the Legislature
4 shall be submitted electronically.