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FIRST REPRINT **A.B. 160**

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 160–ASSEMBLYMEMBERS YEAGER, O'NEILL; AND GRAY

PREFILED JANUARY 30, 2025

Referred to Committee on Revenue

SUMMARY—Creates the Nevada-Ireland Trade Commission. (BDR 18-650)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: Yes.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in ***bolded italics*** is new; matter between brackets **[**~~omitted material~~**]** is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to economic development; creating the Nevada-Ireland Trade Commission; prescribing the membership, powers and duties of the Commission; creating the Account for the Nevada-Ireland Trade Commission; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law creates the Board of Economic Development, which is required to review and make recommendations on various aspects of economic development in Nevada. (NRS 231.033, 231.037) **Section 3** of this bill creates the Nevada-Ireland Trade Commission, which consists of nine members. **Section 4** of this bill: (1) provides for the officers of the Commission; (2) prescribes requirements for meetings of the Commission; and (3) requires the Office of Economic Development to provide necessary administrative support to the Commission. **Section 5** of this bill requires the Commission to study and make recommendations to the Board of Economic Development regarding: (1) advancing bilateral trade and investment between Nevada and Ireland; (2) initiating joint action on policy issues of mutual interest to Nevada and Ireland; (3) promoting business and academic exchanges between Nevada and Ireland; (4) encouraging mutual economic support between Nevada and Ireland; (5) encouraging mutual investment in the infrastructure of Nevada and Ireland; and (6) such other issues as determined by the Commission. **Section 5** also requires the Commission to prepare and submit an annual report of its activities and recommendations to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau and the Governor. **Section 6** of this bill creates the Account for the Nevada-Ireland Trade Commission in the State General Fund, which is required to be administered by the Commission and only used to carry out the activities of the Commission. **Section 6** also: (1) authorizes the Commission to apply for grants and accept gifts, grants, bequests and other contributions; and (2) requires that any such

money received by the Commission be deposited in the Account. **Section 2** of this bill defines the term "Commission" for purposes of **sections 3-6**.

WHEREAS, During the early mining boom in Nevada in the mid-1800s, Irish immigrants were a significant part of this State's population and workforce; and

WHEREAS, The rich Irish heritage of Nevada is reflected in the names of many prominent Nevadans, including, McCarran, Mackay, Manogue and O'Callaghan, who made important contributions to this State in the areas of religion, government, development, business and gaming; and

WHEREAS, There are significant and enduring connections between Nevada and Ireland, and Nevada has historic and practical reasons to desire the building of stronger economic, educational, governmental and cultural links with Ireland; and

WHEREAS, In light of the mutual economic interests of Nevada and Ireland and the need to adapt to the evolving global economy, creation of a trade commission demonstrates a shared commitment to fostering stronger commercial ties between Nevada and Ireland to encourage investment between, leverage the resources of and create mutually beneficial opportunities for both regions; and

WHEREAS, A trade commission will also serve as a platform for educational and cultural exchanges and for building a lasting and collaborative relationship with a global partner; now, therefore,

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Chapter 231 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 6, inclusive, of this act.

Sec. 2. ***As used in sections 2 to 6, inclusive, of this act, unless the context otherwise requires, "Commission" means the Nevada-Ireland Trade Commission created by section 3 of this act.***

Sec. 3. ***1. There is hereby created the Nevada-Ireland Trade Commission, consisting of the following nine members:***

(a) Two members of the Senate, appointed by the Majority Leader of the Senate;

(b) Two members of the Assembly, appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly; and

(c) Five members appointed by the Governor, including, without limitation:

(1) A representative of the Nevada System of Higher Education;

(2) A representative of a chamber of commerce or trade association; and

(3) A representative of the general public who represents Irish-American communities or interests in this State.

2. After the initial terms, each member of the Commission serves a term of 2 years. A member of the Commission may be reappointed.

3. The membership of any member of the Commission who is a Legislator and who is not a candidate for reelection or who is defeated for reelection terminates on the day next after the general election.

4. Any vacancy occurring in the membership of the Commission must be filled in the same manner as the original appointment. A member appointed to fill a vacancy serves as a member of the Commission for the remainder of the original term of appointment.

5. Each member of the Commission:

(a) Serves without compensation; and

(b) While engaged in the business of the Commission, is entitled to receive the per diem allowance and travel expenses provided for state officers and employees generally.

Sec. 4. *1. The members of the Commission shall elect a Chair and Vice Chair from among its members. After the initial election, the Chair and Vice Chair serve for a term of 1 year beginning on July 1 of each year. If the position of Chair or Vice Chair becomes vacant, the members of the Commission shall elect a Chair or Vice Chair, as appropriate, from among its members for the remainder of the unexpired term.*

2. The Commission shall meet at the call of the Chair or a majority of the members of the Commission.

3. A majority of the members of the Commission constitutes a quorum and is required to transact any business of the Commission.

4. The Office shall provide the Commission with such administrative support as is necessary to assist the Commission in carrying out the provisions of sections 2 to 6, inclusive, of this act.

Sec. 5. *1. The Commission shall study and make recommendations to the Board regarding:*

(a) Advancing bilateral trade and investment between Nevada and Ireland;

(b) Initiating joint action on policy issues of mutual interest to Nevada and Ireland;

(c) Promoting business and academic exchanges between Nevada and Ireland;

(d) Encouraging mutual economic support between Nevada and Ireland;

(e) Encouraging mutual investment in the infrastructure of Nevada and Ireland; and

(f) Such other issues as determined by the Commission.

2. On or before October 1 of each year, the Commission shall:

(a) Prepare a written report of its activities during the immediately preceding fiscal year and any recommendations; and

(b) Submit a copy of the written report prepared pursuant to paragraph (a) to:

(1) The Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for transmittal to:

(I) If the report is prepared in an even-numbered year, the next regular session of the Legislature; or

(II) If the report is prepared in an odd-numbered year, the Legislative Commission.

(2) The Governor.

Sec. 6. ***1. The Account for the Nevada-Ireland Trade Commission is hereby created in the State General Fund.***

2. The Commission shall administer the Account. The money in the Account must be used only to carry out the provisions of sections 2 to 6, inclusive, of this act, including, without limitation, for payment of administrative costs and expenses relating to travel, meals and lodging.

3. The Commission may apply for any available grants and accept gifts, grants, bequests and other contributions from any public or private source for deposit in the Account.

4. The interest and income earned on the money in the Account, after deducting applicable charges, must be credited to the Account.

5. Money in the Account must remain in the Account and must not revert to the State General Fund at the end of any fiscal year.

Sec. 7. The provisions of NRS 218D.380 do not apply to any provision of this act which adds or revises a requirement to submit a report to the Legislature.

Sec. 8. This act becomes effective on July 1, 2025.

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