

1 AN ACT relating to tourist and convention commissions.

2 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

3 ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 7 IS CREATED TO
4 READ AS FOLLOWS:

5 *(1) The Kentucky-Ireland Trade Commission of the General Assembly is hereby*
6 *established. The purpose of the commission shall be to:*

7 *(a) Advance bilateral trade and investment between Kentucky and Ireland;*

8 *(b) Initiate joint action on policy issues of mutual interest to Kentucky and*
9 *Ireland;*

10 *(c) Promote business and academic exchanges between Kentucky and Ireland;*

11 *(d) Encourage mutual economic development support between Kentucky and*
12 *Ireland;*

13 *(e) Encourage mutual infrastructure investment in Kentucky and Ireland; and*

14 *(f) Address other issues as determined by the commission.*

15 *(2) The commission shall be composed of nine (9) members. The manner of*
16 *appointment and terms of the members shall be as follows:*

17 *(a) Four (4) members shall be appointed by the Governor, to serve for a term of*
18 *four (4) years and until their successors are appointed. Three (3) of these*
19 *members shall include:*

20 *1. One (1) member from a public postsecondary institution; and*

21 *2. Two (2) members representing the Irish-American community or*
22 *interests, who shall not be members of the same political party;*

23 *(b) The president of the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce or his or her*
24 *designee;*

25 *(c) Two (2) members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate,*
26 *who have knowledge of or current or past involvement in organizations that*
27 *promote Irish affairs or who have interest in the well-being of trade*

- 1 relations between Kentucky and Ireland; and
- 2 (d) Two (2) members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker
3 of the House of Representatives, who have knowledge of or current or past
4 involvement in organizations that promote Irish affairs or who have interest
5 in the well-being of trade relations between Kentucky and Ireland.
- 6 (3) The commission has authority to:
- 7 (a) Meet monthly upon agreement of the co-chairs;
- 8 (b) Seek comment, testimony, documents, records, or other information from
9 various government agencies and organizations representing Irish affairs to
10 identify policy issues of mutual interest to Kentucky and Ireland; and
- 11 (c) Provide research-driven policy proposals and actionable items when areas
12 of development or improvement are identified.
- 13 (4) The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives
14 shall each designate one (1) co-chair of the commission from among that
15 chamber's members appointed to the commission.
- 16 (5) Any vacancy which may occur in the membership of the commission shall be
17 filled within thirty (30) days, in the same manner as the original appointment, for
18 the balance of the expired term.
- 19 (6) A majority of the entire membership of the commission shall constitute a quorum.
- 20 (7) All initial appointments to the commission shall be made no later than July 1,
21 2025. All initial legislative appointments shall remain until January 1, 2027. All
22 subsequent appointments of legislative members shall be in January of each odd-
23 numbered year.
- 24 (8) Each nonlegislative member shall be entitled to compensation for his or her
25 service in an amount of one hundred dollars (\$100) for each regularly scheduled
26 meeting of the commission he or she attends, and shall be entitled to
27 reimbursement for all necessary expenses in connection with the performance of

1 his or her duties.

2 (9) The Legislative Research Commission shall have exclusive jurisdiction over the
3 employment of personnel necessary to carry out this section.

4 (10) The commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor
5 and the Legislative Research Commission within one (1) year of its
6 organizational meeting, and by December 1 of each year thereafter regarding any
7 potential legislative or administrative actions with respect to their findings.

8 ➔SECTION 2. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 45A IS CREATED TO
9 READ AS FOLLOWS:

10 (1) As used in this section:

11 (a) "License agreement" means an agreement for a marina operator to use
12 land owned or leased by the Commonwealth as a state marina;

13 (b) "Marina facilities" means buildings or structures at a marina used to
14 access navigable waterways, store or dock boats, or provide services to boat
15 owners including but not limited to docks, ramps, piers, stores, and
16 restaurants, and refueling, washing, and repairing facilities;

17 (c) "Marina operator" means an owner of marina facilities at a state marina or
18 an operator of a state marina; and

19 (d) "State marina" means a marina located on land owned or leased by the
20 Commonwealth and that is considered to be part of the Kentucky
21 Department of Parks.

22 (2) The Finance and Administration Cabinet may renew or extend a license
23 agreement with a marina operator without otherwise complying with the
24 provisions of this chapter, provided that the following criteria are met:

25 (a) The marina operator has fulfilled all of his or her obligations under the
26 license agreement;

27 (b) The marina operator is in good standing with the Kentucky Department of

1 *Parks; and*

2 *(c) The Finance and Administration Cabinet determines, in writing, that it is in*
3 *the best interest of the Commonwealth to enter into a license agreement*
4 *with the marina operator.*

5 ➔Section 3. KRS 91A.360 is amended to read as follows:

6 (1) The commission established pursuant to KRS 91A.350(2) shall be composed of
7 seven (7) members to be appointed, in accordance with the method used to establish
8 the commission. Members of a commission established by joint action of the local
9 governing bodies of a county and a city or cities located therein shall be appointed,
10 jointly, by the chief executive officers of the local governing bodies that established
11 the commission. Members of a commission established by separate action of the
12 local governing body of a county or a city located therein shall be appointed
13 separately by the chief executive officer of the local governing body that
14 established the commission. The chief executive officer of a city shall mean the
15 mayor and the chief executive officer of a county shall mean the county
16 judge/executive. Appointments to a commission shall be made by the appropriate
17 chief executive officer or officers in the following manner:

18 (a) Two (2) commissioners shall be appointed from a list of three (3) or more
19 names submitted by the local city hotel and motel association and one (1)
20 commissioner shall be appointed from a list of three (3) or more names
21 submitted by the local county hotel and motel association, provided that if
22 only one (1) local hotel and motel association exists which covers both the
23 city and county, then three (3) commissioners shall be appointed from a list of
24 six (6) or more names submitted by it. If no formal local city or county hotel
25 and motel association is in existence upon the establishment of a commission
26 or upon the expiration of the term of a commissioner appointed pursuant to
27 this subsection, then up to three (3) commissioners shall be appointed by the

1 appropriate chief executive officer or officers from persons residing within the
2 county or city~~jurisdiction~~ of the commission and representing local hotels or
3 motels. A local city or county hotel and motel association shall not be
4 required to be affiliated with the Kentucky Hotel and Motel Association to be
5 recognized as the official local city or county hotel and motel association;~~;~~

6 (b) One (1) commissioner shall be appointed from a list of three (3) or more
7 names submitted by the local restaurant association or associations. If no
8 formal local restaurant association or associations exist upon the
9 establishment of a commission or upon the expiration of the term of a
10 commissioner appointed pursuant to this subsection, then one (1)
11 commissioner shall be appointed by the appropriate chief executive officer or
12 officers from persons residing within the county or city~~jurisdiction~~ of the
13 commission and representing a local restaurant. A local restaurant association
14 or associations shall not be required to be affiliated with the Kentucky
15 Restaurant Association to be recognized as the official local restaurant
16 association or associations;~~;~~

17 (c) One (1) commissioner shall be appointed from a list of three (3) or more
18 names submitted by the chamber or chambers of commerce existing within
19 those governmental units, which by joint or separate action have established
20 the commission. If the commission is established by joint action of a county
21 and a city or cities, then each chamber of commerce shall submit a list of three
22 (3) names, and the chief executive officers of the participating governmental
23 units shall jointly appoint one (1) commission member from the aggregate list.
24 If no local chamber of commerce is in existence upon the establishment of a
25 commission or upon the expiration of the term of a commissioner appointed
26 pursuant to this subsection, then one (1) commissioner shall be appointed by
27 the appropriate chief executive officer or officers from persons residing within

1 the county or city~~jurisdiction~~ of the commission and representing local
2 businesses; and~~;~~

3 (d) Two (2) commissioners shall be appointed in the following manner:

4 1. By the chief executive officer of the county or city, if the commission
5 has been established by separate action of a county or city; or

6 2. One (1) each by the chief executive officer of the county and by the
7 chief executive officer of the most populous city participating in the
8 establishment of the commission, if the commission has been
9 established by joint action of a county and a city or cities.

10 (2) A candidate submitted for appointment to the commission, pursuant to subsection
11 (1)(a) to ~~(1)(c)~~ of this section, shall be appointed by the appropriate chief
12 executive officer or officers within thirty (30) days of the receipt of the required list
13 or lists. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner that original appointments are
14 made.

15 (3) The commissioners shall be appointed for terms of three (3) years, provided, that in
16 making the initial appointments, the appropriate chief executive officer or officers
17 shall appoint two (2) commissioners for a term of three (3) years, two (2)
18 commissioners for a term of two (2) years and three (3) commissioners for a term of
19 one (1) year. There shall be no limitation on the number of terms to which a
20 commissioner is reappointed. Subsequent appointments shall be for three (3) year
21 terms.

22 (4) The commission shall elect from its membership a chair~~chairman~~ and a treasurer,
23 and may employ personnel and make contracts necessary to carry out the purpose
24 of KRS 91A.345 to 91A.394. The contracts may include~~;~~ but shall not be limited
25 to~~;~~ the procurement of promotional services, advertising services, and other
26 services and materials relating to the promotion of tourist and convention business.
27 Contracts of the type enumerated shall be made only with persons, organizations,

1 and firms with experience and qualifications for providing promotional services and
2 materials, such as advertising firms, chambers of commerce, publishers, and
3 printers.

4 (5) The books of the commission and its account as established in KRS 91A.390(2)
5 shall be audited as provided in KRS 65A.030. The independent certified public
6 accountant or Auditor of Public Accounts shall make a report to the commission, to
7 the associations submitting lists of names from which commission members are
8 selected, to the appropriate chief executive officer or officers, to the ~~State~~ Auditor
9 of Public Accounts, and to the local governing body or bodies that established the
10 commission that was audited. A copy of the audit report shall be made available by
11 the commission to members of the public upon request and at no charge.

12 (6) A commissioner may be removed from office, by joint or separate action, of the
13 appropriate chief executive officer or officers of the local governing body or bodies
14 that established the commission, as provided by KRS 65.007.

15 (7) The commission shall comply with the provisions of KRS 65A.010 to 65A.090.