SB 1576 -- A COMMISSION FOR THE STUDY OF TRADE WITH IRELAND

SPONSOR: Fitzwater

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Commerce by a vote of 8 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Administrative by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill establishes the "Missouri Ireland Trade Commission" within the Department of Economic Development. The Commission will be composed of nine members. Three members of the House of Representatives will be appointed by the Speaker of the House; three members of the Senate will be appointed by the President Pro Tem; and the three remaining members will be appointed by the Governor, as specified in the bill. Members of the Commission must be appointed no later than 90 days after the effective date of this bill.

The Commission must study potential means of advancing bilateral trade and investment, policy issues, business and academic exchanges, mutual economic support, and mutual investment in the infrastructure of this State and Ireland.

No later than 15 months after the effective date of this bill, and annually thereafter, the Commission must submit a report to the Governor and the General Assembly detailing its findings and recommendations.

The bill establishes the "Missouri Ireland Trade Commission Fund", which will be used for the Commission's administrative expenses.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill will help establish a good and beneficial relationship with Ireland. The Commission created under this bill will help strengthen this relationship in trade and economic development through research and continued dialogue with Ireland.

Testifying in person for the bill was Senator Fitzwater.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.