

ASSEMBLY THIRD READING
AB 2048 (Calderon and Haney)
As Amended May 18, 2026
Majority vote

SUMMARY

AB 2048 establishes the California-Ireland Trade Commission within the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz). Contingent on non-state funding, the commission will serve as an advisory body to the Governor and the Legislature and will focus on expanding trade, investment, and economic partnerships between California and Ireland. Beginning within one year of its initial meeting, and annually by February 1 thereafter through February 1, 2031, the commission must submit reports outlining its findings, results, and recommendations. These reports will help guide updates to California's international trade and investment strategy.

Major Provisions

COMMENTS

Ireland has long been a strong economic and cultural partner of California. AB 2048 seeks to strengthen that relationship by promoting bilateral trade, investment, and job creation. The Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz), which oversees California's International Trade and Investment Program, currently leads the state's efforts to attract foreign investment and expand exports, but does not maintain any international offices.

California is one of the world's largest trading economies, with \$675 billion in merchandise trade in 2024, representing about 16% of the state's gross domestic product. The state also has the largest Irish American population in the nation, with approximately 2.3 million residents, reflecting deep cultural ties between California and Ireland.

The economic relationship between California and Ireland is substantial. In 2025, California exported \$2.47 billion in goods to Ireland and imported \$2.04 billion. Ireland is also California's eighth-largest source of foreign direct investment, with 580 Irish-owned companies employing more than 27,000 Californians and generating \$3.39 billion in annual wages. This bill would build on these strong economic connections by establishing a California-Ireland Trade Commission to identify new opportunities for trade and investment and provide recommendations to the Governor and Legislature.

According to the Author

According to the author, "As the seventh largest foreign investor in California's economy, Ireland has long been a strong economic partner for California. Assembly Bill 2048 seeks to further this rewarding relationship by establishing a California-Ireland Trade Commission. This bill will create a formal entity that will promote bilateral economic investment and serve as a resource to help identify new growth opportunities".

Arguments in Support

None on file.

Arguments in Opposition

None on file.

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations, this bill conditions the requirement that the Governor establish the California-Ireland Trade Commission upon availability of sufficient nonstate funds for this purpose. Therefore, the bill entails no direct costs.

VOTES**ASM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, GROWTH, AND HOUSEHOLD IMPACT: 7-0-1**

YES: Solache, Castillo, Patel, Petrie-Norris, Michelle Rodriguez, Soria, Wallis

ABS, ABST OR NV: Muratsuchi

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 11-0-4

YES: Wicks, Aguiar-Curry, Calderon, Caloza, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Pacheco, Pellerin, Sharp-Collins, Solache

ABS, ABST OR NV: Hoover, Dixon, Ta, Tangipa

UPDATED

VERSION: May 18, 2026

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FN: 0003005