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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR	Reps. Murphy, Block, Montoya, and Henry/Sen. Sharer	LAST UPDATED	
		ORIGINAL DATE	3/06/2025
SHORT TITLE	New Mexico-Ireland Trade Commission	BILL NUMBER	House Bill 564
		ANALYST	Rodriguez

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT*

(dollars in thousands)

Agency/Program	FY25	FY26	FY27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
EDD	\$0.0	\$123.7	\$123.7	\$247.4	Recurring	General Fund

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.
 *Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Agency Analysis Received From
 Economic Development Department (EDD)

Agency Analysis was Solicited but Not Received From
 New Mexico Governor’s Office
 Higher Education Department (HED)
 New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of House Bill 564

House Bill 564 (HB564) establishes the New Mexico-Ireland Trade Commission to enhance bilateral trade, investment, and economic collaboration between New Mexico and Ireland, focusing on technology, agriculture, energy, policy coordination, business and academic exchanges, and infrastructure investment. The commission would consist of 16 members with knowledge or experience of Irish affairs and trade relations between New Mexico and Ireland and the director of the Division of International Trade at the Economic Development Department (EDD). The commission will submit an annual report on December 1, 2025.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

HB564 allows the commission to hire professional and clerical staff to carry out the purposes of the commission. EDD would need additional funding for at least one staff person with expertise in international trade or an increase in contractual costs to support the responsibilities of the commission. See “Administrative Implications” for more on current staff at EDD who work in international trade.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

As noted by EDD, the agency collaborated on an analysis of New Mexico’s competitiveness in attracting foreign direct investment. The report found that Germany and Canada were the top markets for investment attraction opportunities in the energy and natural resources, emerging technologies, and value-added agriculture sectors overall, with Taiwan and Mexico coming in second for the emerging technologies and value-added agriculture sectors respectively. Ireland did not appear in the top 10 markets for foreign direct investment opportunities.

Additionally, and as noted by EDD, over the past three years, Ireland’s share of total trade with New Mexico has remained below 1 percent, except for imports in 2024. In 2024, there was a hike in imports of electrical machinery, which the agency says is likely an isolated case and tied to Intel’s efforts to get ahead of changes in tariffs. EDD argues that there is little evidence to direct limited resources toward Ireland, especially given that ED’s focus is on exports and not on imports.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

SB564 administratively attaches the commission to EDD. The bill also directs the director of the Division of International Trade to be a part of the commission. However, as noted by EDD, the division has not been funded since 2010 and no longer exists at EDD, except by statue (Section 9-15-30.1 NMSA 1978). EDD does have an Office of International Trade, whose duty is to assist New Mexico companies to capitalize on opportunities in the competitive global marketplace specifically through the State Trade Expansion Program (STEP). The program provides funding to eligible small businesses to export products abroad. The office does not have any full-time staffing, and its work is supported through contractual agreements. As noted by EDD, the director of the Economic Development Division works with the governor’s office and industry to attract foreign direct investment to the state. Therefore, EDD would not be able to meet the requirements of the bill to include the director of the Division of International Trade as a part of the commission.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

Members of the commission who are not public employees are not entitled to per diem and mileage. Normally, nonpublic employees are eligible for per diem and mileage—it is unclear of the intent of the bill was to allow those members to be eligible.

Section 1(B)(1 and 2) specifies that the memberships of the members appointed by the Legislature will “only for the term of the legislative session during which the members are appointed.” This implies that new appointments should be made every legislation session. EDD argues it would be impossible for legislators to make these appointments at the outset of every legislative session, and for the appointees to have enough time within a 60- or 30-day session to make any significant contribution to the commission’s work.

JR/hj/hg