



## Fiscal Note

### Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

## HB 26-1118: COLORADO IRELAND TRADE COMMISSION

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**Prime Sponsors:**

Rep. Hartsook; Stewart R.

Sen. Frizell; Snyder

**Fiscal Analyst:**

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**Date:** February 12, 2026

**Fiscal note status:** The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

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### Summary Information

**Overview.** The bill creates the Colorado-Ireland Trade Commission.

**Types of impacts.** The bill is projected to affect the following areas on an ongoing basis:

- State Expenditures

**Appropriations.** For FY 2026-27, the bill requires an appropriation of \$17,534 to the Legislative Department.

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**Table 1**  
**State Fiscal Impacts**

Type of Impact	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
State Revenue	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures	\$21,802	\$21,802
Transferred Funds	\$0	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	0.2 FTE	0.2 FTE

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**Table 1A  
State Expenditures**

<b>Fund Source</b>	<b>Budget Year FY 2026-27</b>	<b>Out Year FY 2027-28</b>
General Fund	\$17,534	\$17,534
Cash Funds	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0
Centrally Appropriated	\$4,268	\$4,268
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$21,802</b>	<b>\$21,802</b>
<b>Total FTE</b>	<b>0.2 FTE</b>	<b>0.2 FTE</b>

## Summary of Legislation

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The bill creates the Colorado-Ireland International Trade Commission (commission) in the Legislative Branch. The 11-member commission includes six legislators and five other individuals, whose required qualifications, appointing authority and terms of service are specified in the bill. Appointments to the commission must be made by September 1, 2026. Commission members serve without compensation and are not entitled to reimbursement.

The commission must have its first meeting before September 1, 2026 and meet at least twice per year. All meeting minutes, reports and recommendations produced by the commission must be posted on the website of the Colorado Office of Economic Development (OEDIT) and the annual report must be submitted to the General Assembly and the Governor on January 15, beginning in 2027. Duties of the commission include:

- advancing trade and investment between Colorado and Ireland;
- encouraging mutual investment in infrastructure and human capital;
- promoting business, educational and cultural exchanges; and,
- taking action on policy issues of mutual agreement and other issues as necessary.

## Assumptions

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While the bill states that members of the commission serve without reimbursement for expenses, state law allows legislators to receive compensation and expense reimbursement<sup>1</sup> while serving on state entities such as the newly established commission. The fiscal note assumes that because this commission is not exempted from these compensation policies that members will claim reimbursement.

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<sup>1</sup> Section 2-2-326, C.R.S.

The bill states that the commission is created in the Office of Economic Development; however, the bill requires that the commission be convened by the Speaker of the House and places the commission statute in Title 2, Article 2, which pertains to the General Assembly. The fiscal note assumes that the commission will be created in the Legislative Department. If the commission is created within OEDIT, costs will decrease for the Legislative Branch and increase in OEDIT to support the work of the commission.

## State Expenditures

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The bill increases state expenditures in the Legislative Department by about \$22,000 in FY 2026-27 and ongoing. These costs, paid from the General Fund, are summarized in Table 2 and discussed below. The bill also minimally affects workload for the Governor’s Office.

**Table 2**  
**State Expenditures**  
**Legislative Department**

<b>Cost Component</b>	<b>Budget Year FY 2026-27</b>	<b>Out Year FY 2027-28</b>
Personal Services	\$14,703	\$14,703
Legislative Member Per-Diem	\$2,831	\$2,831
Centrally Appropriated Costs	\$4,268	\$4,268
<b>Total Costs</b>	<b>\$21,802</b>	<b>\$21,802</b>
<b>Total FTE</b>	<b>0.2 FTE</b>	<b>0.2 FTE</b>

## Legislative Department

Legislative Council Staff requires 0.2 FTE Research Associate to provide support to the commission for at least two meetings annually and to assist with completing the required reports and recommendations. Additionally, costs will increase by \$2,831 for the six legislative members of the commission to receive per diem and expense reimbursement, based on the standard compensation and reimbursement rate for meetings outside of the legislative session.

## Governor’s Office

The Office of Economic Development and International Trade will have minimal workload to post required meeting materials and recommendations on their website and have a representative serve on the commission. No appropriation is required.

Workload will minimally increase for the Governor’s Office of Boards and Commissions to make the required appointment under the bill. This work can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

## Centrally Appropriated Costs

Pursuant to a Joint Budget Committee policy, certain costs associated with this bill are addressed through the annual budget process and centrally appropriated in the Long Bill or supplemental appropriations bills, rather than in this bill. These costs, which may include employee insurance, supplemental employee retirement payments, indirect cost assessments, and other costs, are shown in Table 2 above.

## Effective Date

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The bill takes effect 90 days following adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

## State Appropriations

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For FY 2026-27, the bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$17,534 to the Legislative Department, and 0.2 FTE.

## State and Local Government Contacts

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Legislative Council Staff

Office Of Economic Development

Legislative Legal Services