

LFC Requester:

AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2025 REGULAR SESSION

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(Analysis must be uploaded as a PDF)

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}

Date Prepared: 3/17/25

Check all that apply:

Bill Number: HM59

Original ☒ Correction ☐

Amendment ☐ Substitute ☐

Sponsor: Representatives Mark B. Murphy,
Martin R. Zamora, Andrea Reeb,
Pat Woods and Pat Boone.

Agency Name and Code Economic Development
Department
Number: 41900

Short Title: Study Economic Relationship
with Ireland

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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26		

(Parenthesis () indicate expenditure decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26	FY27		

(Parenthesis () indicate revenue decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY25	FY26	FY27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total						

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to: HB564
Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: House Memorial 59 (HM59) requests that the legislative council service assign an interim legislative committee to address economic development issues to study the benefits of a formal economic relationship with the Republic of Ireland to determine whether a New Mexico-Ireland trade commission should be established to advance bilateral trade and investment. The memorial requests that the interim committee make recommendations for legislative initiatives for the 2026 legislative session and that copies of the memorial be submitted to the co-chairs of the legislative council service and the secretary of the economic development department.

HM59 cites several items to support its request:

- In 2023 the US exported twenty-four billion (\$24,100,000,000) in goods to Ireland, including planes, helicopters, spacecraft, vaccines, blood, antisera, toxins, cultures, and crude petroleum.
- Between 2018 and 2023 US exports to Ireland increased by four percent.
- In 2023 Ireland exported sixty-seven billion (\$67,400,000,000) in goods to the US, including vaccines, blood, antisera, toxins, cultures, packaged medicaments, and hormones.
- Between 2018 and 2023 Irish exports to the US increased by six percent.
- Economic ties with Ireland can provide New Mexico companies with access to the European Union.
- Thirty-six states have passed, or are considering legislation establishing an Irish trade commission.

To further support the request, HM59 notes that New Mexico was the destination for Irish immigrants over the past 200 years, going back to the European famines and mining booms in New Mexico, thereby creating cultural, religious, and business ties between the two.

HM59 highlights two companies that have made significant investments in New Mexico and Ireland:

- Glanbia Nutritionals—headquartered in Kilkenny, Ireland. Glanbia has a 50 percent stake in Southwest Cheese, located in Clovis where 10 percent of the cheddar cheese in the US is produced.
- Intel—headquartered in Santa Clara, CA. Intel has a fabrication plant in Rio Rancho and a large industrial campus in Ireland. Intel's plant in Rio Rancho has an annual economic impact of \$1.2B.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None for EDD

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

From an economic development perspective, the goal of international trade is to increase exports of New Mexico products and foreign direct investment into the state while developing strong ties

and relationships within the respective target markets. Identification of those target markets is key in determining where to direct time and resources. According to an analysis of New Mexico's competitiveness in attracting foreign direct investment conducted earlier in the fiscal year by OCO Global and in collaboration with EDD and the City of Albuquerque Economic Development, 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. While the United Kingdom ranked 4th in the energy and natural resources sector, it was not among the highest opportunities to attract foreign direct investment, nor did Ireland appear in the top 10 markets for foreign direct investment opportunities.

Although US exports to Ireland in 2023 were just over \$24 billion, over the past three years, Ireland's share of total trade with New Mexico has remained below 1 percent, except for imports in 2024. Last year there was a hike in imports of electrical machinery that represented 99 percent of total imports. This substantial expansion in trade activity is likely an isolated case, tied to Intel's presence in NM and its efforts to get ahead of the shift in tariffs that is happening under the current US federal administration. There is no other company in New Mexico that could move the needle in such a way in such a short timeframe.

There is very little justification based on the numbers compared to other markets to direct limited resources toward Ireland alone.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

HM59 is related to HB564, and shares some of the same sponsors. HB564 enacts the creation of the New Mexico-Ireland trade commission.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

ALTERNATIVES

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

AMENDMENTS