

SB 961 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Prepared By: Michael Graham, Fiscal Analyst

Meeting Dates: 6/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure creates the nine-member Oregon-Ireland Sister State Committee to organize activities for and host visiting delegations from Ireland, participate in delegations visiting Ireland, facilitate the exchange of knowledge between Oregon and Ireland including joint projects, and take any action necessary to coordinate and promote an economic relationship. The committee may visit Ireland at least once per biennium. The committee is authorized to meet, at most, twice a year. The bill directs the Legislative Policy and Research Office to provide staff support for one meeting before and one meeting after the committee visits Ireland.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Alabama, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and West Virginia are among states that have established or are in the process of starting Ireland Trade Commissions. As of 2023, Oregon exports to Ireland are the fourth highest of any U.S. state, with roughly \$1.25 billion in exports, and \$601 million in imports, with computer and electronic products, and chemicals, being the largest product categories. According to 2023 five-year American Community Survey estimates, roughly 10.8% of Oregon's population claims Irish ancestry. Ireland had a population of over 5.1 million in its 2022 census, is a member of the European Union, and its statistics office cites a 2022 GDP equivalent to roughly \$527 billion.

Senate Bill 961 A establishes the Oregon-Ireland Sister State Committee.