

Meeting Agenda

Date: Wednesday, July 22nd, 2026
Time: 11:00am EST
Location: Virtual



Attendees: **Delegate Ken Kerr (Chair)**, Maryland House of Delegates
Erin McNeally (Vice Chair), Senior Business Consultant
Senator Johnny Mautz, Maryland State Senate
Michael Lore, Deputy Secretary of State
Brian Castleberry, Senior Regional Manager, Office of International Investment and Trade, Maryland Department of Commerce
Aisha Booker, Acting Sr. Director for Office of International Trade and Investment, Maryland Department of Commerce
Ricardo Benn, Deputy Secretary, Maryland Department of Commerce
Rebecca Bellinger, Executive Director, Center for Global Business, Smith School at the University of Maryland
Chris Frech, SVP Global Government Affairs, Emergent Bio Solutions
Laura Merritt, President, Diageo
Cassie Folk, Director of Government Relations, Diageo

1. Opening Remarks (Delegate Kerr)
2. New Membership Update (Delegate Kerr)
3. County Monaghan Meeting on 7/15 (Brian Castleberry, Michael Lore)
4. Global Talent Summit at UMD (Rebecca Bellinger)
5. UMD Irish HQ Hiring Initiative (Rebecca Bellinger)
6. Upcoming Event Recap (All)
 - National Conference of State Legislatures: July 27-29, Chicago
 - Ireland Trade Commissioner Meeting 7/27 3:30 pm to 5:00pm at the NCSL Summit in Chicago in the McCormick Place, Convention Centre, West Building, Level 1, Room 176C.
 - Meeting will be attended by Irish Minister of State at the Department of Enterprise, Tourism and Employment, Niamh Smyth, Chair of the Senate of Ireland, Senator Mark Daly and The American Irish State Legislators Caucus National Co-Chairs
 - American Irish State Legislatures Caucus and Ireland Trade Commissioner Summit: August 26-29, Ireland
 - Dublin: Leinster House, the Home of the Irish Parliament, Google HQ, Fire Side chat in Dublin City Hall, Texas Christian University Horned Frogs vs North Carolina Tar Heels
 - Belfast: Titanic Museum, the Peace Walls, and the Northern Ireland Assembly.

- 250th Anniversary of American Independence Event
- Commerce Trade Delegation to Ireland: October 17-27, 2026
 - Limerick: Futura Innovation Conference
 - Galway: Platform95
 - Dublin: Guinness Enterprise Center
- 7. 2026 Year End Report (Delegate Kerr)
- 8. Upcoming Meetings (Erin McNeally)
- 9. Commissioner Comments (All)
- 10. Adjournment