

Meeting Minutes

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
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
Cassie Folk, Director of Government Relations, Diageo

Opening Remarks were made by Delegate Ken Kerr about new membership ideas. Bob Story of Launchport was talked about as a great new addition. He worked with Med Device firms in Galway before.

County Monaghan Meeting on 7/15 was taled about with Dept Sec Lore and Castleberry. They met with Delegation to discuss opportunities with new Ad/Bio accelerator in Monaghan.

Rebeca Bellinger talked about Global Talent Summit at UMD Rebecca Bellinger and UMD Irish HQ Hiring Initiative, focused on Light House Sectors.

Committee spoke about upcoming events, such as the National Conference of State Legislatures: July 27-29, Chicago, where Cassy will attend with Senator Daley. Below are the details:

- 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-Chais
- Dublin: Leinster House, the Home of the Irish Parliament, Google HQ, Fire Side chat in Dublin City Hall, Texas Christian University Horned

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Castleberry spoke about October Ireland trade Commission. Will be a conference in Limerick and then stops in Galway and Dublin. Will be HealthTech and MedTech focused.

Del Kerr and team discussed next meeting, for August 18th.

Meeting adjourned at 12:25pm.