



Substitute Senate Bill No. 132

Public Act No. 26-78

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CONNECTICUT-GERMANY AND
CONNECTICUT-INDIA TRADE COMMISSIONS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a Connecticut-Germany Trade Commission, which shall be part of the Legislative Department.

(b) The commission shall consist of the following members:

- (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;
- (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;
- (3) Two appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives;
- (4) Two appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;
- (5) Two appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives;
- (6) Two appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;
- (7) Two members of the joint standing committee of the General

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Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce, one of whom shall be appointed by the Senate chairperson of such committee and one of whom shall be appointed by the House chairperson of such committee;

(8) The ranking members of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce, or their designees;

(9) Three persons appointed by the Governor;

(10) A representative of a public institution of higher education in the state, who shall be appointed by the Governor;

(11) A representative of a chamber of commerce in the state, who shall be appointed by the Governor;

(12) Two representatives of German or German-American communities in the state, who shall be appointed by the Governor and shall not be members of the same political party;

(13) A diplomatic representative of Germany in an honorary consular capacity if such diplomatic representative is willing to fulfill the duties of the trade commission, who shall be appointed by the Governor; and

(14) Any additional members, as deemed necessary by the chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce.

(c) The members of the commission shall each have current or past involvement in organizations that promote German affairs or are interested in the well-being of trade relations between the state and Germany.

(d) Any member of the commission appointed under subdivisions (1) to (6), inclusive, and subdivision (14) of subsection (b) of this section

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may be a member of the General Assembly.

(e) (1) All initial appointments to the commission shall be made not later than October 1, 2026. Initial appointments made by the Governor, the majority leader of the House of Representatives and the minority leader of the House of Representatives shall terminate on September 30, 2029. Initial appointments made by the speaker of the House of Representatives, the president pro tempore of the Senate, the majority leader of the Senate and the minority leader of the Senate shall terminate on September 30, 2030. The initial and subsequent terms of members appointed by the chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce shall be coterminous with the terms of the appointing authority for each such member in accordance with the provisions of section 4-1a of the general statutes.

(2) Appointed members of the commission shall serve for four-year terms which shall commence on the date of appointment, except as provided in subdivision (1) of this subsection. Members shall continue to serve until their successors are appointed.

(f) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the commission from among the members of the commission. Such chairpersons shall schedule the first meeting of the commission, which shall be held not later than November 1, 2026.

(g) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to consumer protection shall serve as administrative staff of the commission.

(h) Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority. Any vacancy occurring other than by expiration of term shall be filled for the balance of the unexpired term.

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(i) A majority of the commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business.

(j) The members of the commission shall serve without compensation, but shall, within the limits of available funds, be reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of their duties.

(k) The commission shall have the following powers and duties: (1) To advance bilateral trade and investment between the state and Germany; (2) to initiate joint action on policy issues of mutual interest to the state and Germany; (3) to promote business and academic exchanges between the state and Germany; (4) to encourage mutual economic support between the state and Germany; (5) to encourage mutual investment in the infrastructure of the state and Germany; (6) to address such other issues as determined by the commission; (7) to obtain from any executive department, board, commission or other agency of the state such assistance and data as are necessary and available to carry out the purposes of this section; (8) to accept any gift, donation or bequest for the purpose of performing the duties described in this section; and (9) to perform such other acts as may be necessary and appropriate to carry out the duties described in this section.

(l) The commission shall meet quarterly, or as often as deemed necessary by the chairpersons or a majority of the commission. Any appointed member who fails to attend three consecutive meetings or who fails to attend fifty per cent of all meetings held during any calendar year shall be deemed to have resigned from the commission.

(m) Not later than February 1, 2028, and annually thereafter, the commission shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the Governor, the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development and the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters

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relating to commerce on the activities of the commission during the preceding year, which shall include, but need not be limited to, any recommendations for policy changes and amendments to the general statutes necessary to effectuate the purposes of the commission.

Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a Connecticut-India Trade Commission, which shall be part of the Legislative Department.

(b) The commission shall consist of the following members:

(1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall have expertise in domestic nonprofit affairs or matters relating to the governance of international nonprofit organizations or nongovernmental organizations that may have information concerning opportunities for social and economic collaboration between Connecticut and India;

(2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one of whom shall have expertise in domestic legal affairs or international law that may impact legal agreements, trade partnerships or opportunities for institutional collaboration between Connecticut and India;

(3) Two appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall have expertise in matters of domestic or global public health, and an ability to explore opportunities for collaboration between Connecticut and India;

(4) Two appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, one of whom shall have expertise in local, domestic or global economic development and investment opportunities intended to strengthen the partnership between Connecticut and India;

(5) Two appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall have expertise in opportunities in

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the arts intended to foster and enhance cultural exchange between Connecticut and India;

(6) Two appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, one of whom shall have expertise in domestic or global advanced manufacturing intended to establish opportunities for investment, partnership and collaboration between Connecticut and India;

(7) Two members of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce, one of whom shall be appointed by the Senate chairperson of such committee and one of whom shall be appointed by the House chairperson of such committee;

(8) The ranking members of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce, or their designees;

(9) Two members of the bipartisan Asian-American and Pacific Islander Issues Caucus of the General Assembly, both of whom shall have expertise in Asian-American and Pacific Islander cultural and social engagement;

(10) One member of the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity, who is a member of the subcommission concerning matters relating to the Asian Pacific-American population;

(11) Three persons appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall have expertise in matters relating to aerospace, information technology, cybersecurity, renewable energy or clean energy;

(12) Two representatives of a public institution of higher education in the state, who shall be appointed by the Governor;

(13) A representative of a chamber of commerce in the state, who shall

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be appointed by the Governor;

(14) Two representatives of Indian or Indian-American communities in the state, who shall be appointed by the Governor and shall not be members of the same political party; and

(15) Any additional members, as deemed necessary by the chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce.

(c) The members of the commission shall each have current or past involvement in organizations that promote Indian affairs or are interested in the well-being of trade relations between the state and India.

(d) Any member of the commission appointed under subdivisions (1) to (6), inclusive, and subdivision (15) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member of the General Assembly.

(e) (1) All initial appointments to the commission shall be made not later than October 1, 2026. Initial appointments made by the Governor, the majority leader of the House of Representatives and the minority leader of the House of Representatives shall terminate on September 30, 2029. Initial appointments made by the speaker of the House of Representatives, the president pro tempore of the Senate, the majority leader of the Senate and the minority leader of the Senate shall terminate on September 30, 2030. The initial and subsequent terms of members appointed by the chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce shall be coterminous with the terms of the appointing authority for each such member in accordance with the provisions of section 4-1a of the general statutes.

(2) Appointed members of the commission shall serve for four-year terms which shall commence on the date of appointment, except as

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provided in subdivision (1) of this subsection. Members shall continue to serve until their successors are appointed.

(f) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the commission from among the members of the commission. Such chairpersons shall schedule the first meeting of the commission, which shall be held not later than November 1, 2026.

(g) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to government oversight shall serve as administrative staff of the commission.

(h) Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority. Any vacancy occurring other than by expiration of term shall be filled for the balance of the unexpired term.

(i) A majority of the commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business.

(j) The members of the commission shall serve without compensation, but shall, within the limits of available funds, be reimbursed for expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of their duties.

(k) The commission shall have the following powers and duties: (1) To advance bilateral trade and investment between the state and India; (2) to initiate joint action on policy issues of mutual interest to the state and India; (3) to promote business and academic exchanges between the state and India; (4) to encourage mutual economic support between the state and India; (5) to encourage mutual investment in the infrastructure of the state and India; (6) to explore new opportunities for collaboration in the arts and technology between the state and India; (7) to address such other issues as determined by the commission; (8) to obtain from any executive department, board, commission or other agency of the

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state such assistance and data as are necessary and available to carry out the purposes of this section; (9) to accept any gift, donation or bequest for the purpose of performing the duties described in this section; and (10) to perform such other acts as may be necessary and appropriate to carry out the duties described in this section.

(l) The commission shall meet quarterly, or as often as deemed necessary by the chairpersons or a majority of the commission. Any appointed member who fails to attend three consecutive meetings or who fails to attend fifty per cent of all meetings held during any calendar year shall be deemed to have resigned from the commission.

(m) Not later than February 1, 2028, and annually thereafter, the commission shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the Governor, the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development and the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce on the activities of the commission during the preceding year, which shall include, but need not be limited to, any recommendations for policy changes and amendments to the general statutes necessary to effectuate the purposes of the commission.