

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 26-78—sSB 132
Commerce Committee

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

SUMMARY: This act creates two new trade commissions within the Legislative Department: the Connecticut-Germany Trade Commission and the Connecticut-India Trade Commission. Under the act, each commission must do the following between Connecticut and its respective country:

1. advance bilateral trade and investment,
2. initiate joint action on policy issues of mutual interest,
3. promote business and academic exchanges,
4. encourage mutual economic support and infrastructure investment, and
5. address other issues it determines.

The Connecticut-India Trade Commission must also explore new opportunities for collaboration in the arts and technology.

To carry out their duties, the act authorizes the commissions to (1) get any assistance and data they need from any executive department, board, commission, or state agency; (2) take necessary and appropriate actions; and (3) accept gifts, donations, or bequests.

The act requires each commission, starting by February 1, 2028, to annually report to the governor, Department of Economic and Community Development, and Commerce Committee on its activities during the prior year, including any policy and legislative recommendations needed to carry out its purposes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

MEMBERSHIP AND MEETINGS

Connecticut-Germany Trade Commission Members

Under the act, the commission includes the following 24 appointed or ex-officio members, as well as any additional members the Commerce Committee chairpersons determine are necessary:

1. two members each appointed by the six legislative leaders;
2. two Commerce Committee members, one each appointed by the committee chairpersons;
3. the Commerce Committee's ranking members, or their designees;
4. three members appointed by the governor;
5. one representative of a Connecticut public college or university, appointed by the governor;
6. one Connecticut chamber of commerce representative, appointed by the governor;

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7. two representatives of German or German-American communities in the state from different political parties, appointed by the governor; and
8. one German honorary consular diplomatic representative willing to serve on the trade commission, appointed by the governor.

The act requires commission members to be (1) currently or formerly involved in organizations promoting German affairs or (2) interested in the well-being of trade relations between Connecticut and Germany.

Connecticut-India Trade Commission Members

Under the act, the commission includes the following 27 appointed or ex-officio members, and any additional members the Commerce Committee chairpersons determine are necessary:

1. two members appointed by the House speaker, including one expert in domestic nonprofit affairs or in the governance of international nonprofit or nongovernmental organizations that may have information on opportunities for social and economic collaboration between Connecticut and India;
2. two members appointed by the Senate president pro tempore, including one expert in domestic or international law that may impact legal agreements, trade partnerships, or opportunities for institutional collaboration between Connecticut and India;
3. two members appointed by the House majority leader, including one domestic or global public health expert with an ability to explore opportunities for collaboration between Connecticut and India;
4. two members appointed by the Senate majority leader, including one expert in local, domestic, or global economic development and investment opportunities intended to strengthen the partnership between Connecticut and India;
5. two members appointed by the House minority leader, including one expert in artistic opportunities for cultural exchange between Connecticut and India;
6. two members appointed by the Senate minority leader, including one expert in domestic or global advanced manufacturing intended to create opportunities for investment, partnership, and collaboration between Connecticut and India;
7. two Commerce Committee members, one each appointed by the committee chairpersons;
8. two Commerce Committee ranking members, or their designees;
9. two members of the Asian-American and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) Issues Caucus with expertise in AAPI cultural and social engagement;
10. one member of the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity's sub-commission on matters affecting the AAPI population;
11. three members appointed by the governor, including one expert in aerospace, information technology, cybersecurity, renewable energy, or clean energy;
12. two representatives of a Connecticut public college or university, appointed

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- by the governor;
13. one Connecticut chamber of commerce representative, appointed by the governor; and
 14. two representatives of Indian or Indian-American communities in the state from different political parties, appointed by the governor.

Under the act, commission members must be (1) currently or formerly involved in organizations promoting Indian affairs or (2) interested in the well-being of trade relations between Connecticut and India.

Appointments

For each commission, the act requires appointing authorities to make their initial appointments by October 1, 2026, and fill any vacancies. Vacancies occurring other than by term expiration must be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term. The members, except those appointed by the governor, may be legislators.

Terms

Under the act, members generally serve four-year terms, until their successors are appointed, except as follows:

1. initial gubernatorial and House majority and minority leader appointments end on September 30, 2029;
2. initial House speaker, Senate president pro tempore, and Senate majority and minority leader appointments end on September 30, 2030; and
3. initial and subsequent Commerce Committee chairperson appointments end when the term of the appointing committee chairperson ends.

Under the act, members serve without compensation but are reimbursed, within available funds, for necessary expenses incurred performing their duties.

Leadership and Meetings

The act requires the House speaker and Senate president pro tempore to select each commission's chairpersons from among its members. The chairpersons must schedule and hold each commission's first meeting by November 1, 2026.

Under the act, each commission must meet quarterly or as often as the chairpersons or a majority of the members deem necessary. Members who miss three consecutive meetings or 50% of the meetings in a calendar year are deemed to have resigned. A majority of members is a quorum for conducting business.

The act requires the (1) General Law Committee's administrative staff to serve in this capacity for the Connecticut-Germany Trade Commission and (2) Government Oversight Committee's administrative staff to serve in this capacity for the Connecticut-India Trade Commission.