



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Raised Bill No. 132

LCO No. 1123



Referred to Committee on COMMERCE

Introduced by:
(CE)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CONNECTICUT-GERMANY TRADE COMMISSION.

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

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a
2 Connecticut-Germany Trade Commission, which shall be part of the
3 Legislative Department.
- 4 (b) The commission shall consist of the following members:
- 5 (1) Two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;
- 6 (2) Two appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;
- 7 (3) Two appointed by the majority leader of the House of
8 Representatives;
- 9 (4) Two appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;
- 10 (5) Two appointed by the minority leader of the House of
11 Representatives;

12 (6) Two appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;

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

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

21 (9) Three persons appointed by the Governor;

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

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

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

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

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

36 (e) (1) All initial appointments to the commission shall be made not
37 later than October 1, 2026. Initial appointments made by the Governor,
38 the majority leader of the House of Representatives and the minority
39 leader of the House of Representatives shall terminate on September 30,

40 2029. Initial appointments made by the speaker of the House of
41 Representatives, the president pro tempore of the Senate, the majority
42 leader of the Senate and the minority leader of the Senate shall terminate
43 on September 30, 2030. The initial and subsequent terms of members
44 appointed by the chairpersons of the joint standing committee of the
45 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce
46 shall be coterminous with the terms of the appointing authority for each
47 such member in accordance with the provisions of section 4-1a of the
48 general statutes.

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

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

58 (g) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
59 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to commerce
60 shall serve as administrative staff of the commission.

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

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

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

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

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

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

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To establish a Connecticut-Germany Trade Commission.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]