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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **sSB 132**

#### ***AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CONNECTICUT-GERMANY TRADE COMMISSION.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill establishes a Connecticut-Germany Trade Commission within the Legislative Department to, between Connecticut and Germany:

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 the commission determines.

To carry out its duties, the bill also authorizes the commission to (1) obtain necessary assistance and data from any executive department, board, commission, or state agency; (2) perform necessary and appropriate acts; and (3) accept gifts, donations, or bequests.

Under the bill, the commission's membership includes 23 appointed or ex-officio members, as well as any additional members the Commerce Committee chairs determine are necessary.

The bill requires the 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 recommendations for policy and legislative changes needed to carry out its purposes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

## **MEMBERSHIP AND MEETINGS**

### ***Members***

Under the bill, the commission includes the following 23 appointed 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; and
7. two representatives of German or German-American communities in the state from different political parties, appointed by the governor.

Under the bill, commission members must be (1) currently or formerly involved in organizations promoting German affairs or (2) interested in trade relations between Connecticut and Germany.

### ***Appointments***

The bill 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. All members, except those appointed by the governor, may be legislators.

**Terms**

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

**Leadership and Meetings**

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

Under the bill, the 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 bill requires the General Law Committee’s administrative staff to serve in this capacity for the commission.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Commerce Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute  
Yea 20 Nay 0 (03/05/2026)