

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Government Operations and Military Affairs to which  
3 was referred House Bill No. 667 entitled “An act relating to the creation of the  
4 Vermont-Ireland Trade Commission” respectfully reports that it has considered  
5 the same and recommends that that bill be amended by striking out all after the  
6 enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

7 Sec. 1. 9 V.S.A. chapter 111B is added to read:

8 CHAPTER 111B. TRADE COMMISSIONS

9 § 4129. VERMONT-IRELAND TRADE COMMISSION

10 (a) The Vermont-Ireland Trade Commission is established within the State  
11 Treasurer’s office to advance bilateral trade and investment between Vermont  
12 and Ireland. The Commission shall consist of 10 members as follows:

13 (1) three members, appointed by the Governor;

14 (2) three members, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

15 (3) three members, appointed by the Senate Committee on Committees;

16 and

17 (4) the State Treasurer or designee.

18 (b) The purposes of the Vermont-Ireland Trade Commission are to:

19 (1) advance bilateral trade and investment between Vermont and

20 Ireland;

1           (2) initiate joint action on policy issues of mutual interest to Vermont  
2           and Ireland;

3           (3) promote business and academic exchanges between Vermont and  
4           Ireland;

5           (4) encourage mutual economic support between Vermont and Ireland;

6           (5) encourage mutual investment in the infrastructure of Vermont and  
7           Ireland; and

8           (6) address other issues as determined by the Commission.

9           (c) The members of the Commission, except for the State Treasurer or  
10          designee, shall be appointed for terms of four years each and shall continue to  
11          serve until their successors are appointed, except that in order to achieve  
12          staggered terms, the three members appointed by the Governor shall serve  
13          initial terms of two years each and the three members appointed by the Speaker  
14          of the House shall serve initial terms of three years each. Members may be  
15          reappointed.

16          (d) A vacancy in the membership of the Commission shall be filled by the  
17          relevant appointing authority within 90 days after the vacancy.

18          (e) The Commission shall select a chair from among its members at the  
19          first meeting. The Chair, as appropriate, may appoint from among the  
20          Commission members subcommittees or a subcommittee at the Chair's

1 discretion. A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a  
2 quorum for purposes of transacting the business of the Commission.

3 (f) The Commission shall submit a written report with its findings, results,  
4 and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly within one  
5 year of its initial organizational meeting and on or before November 1 of each  
6 succeeding year for the activities of the current calendar year.

7 (g) The Vermont-Ireland Trade Commission is authorized to raise funds,  
8 through direct solicitation or other fundraising events, alone or with other  
9 groups, and accept gifts, grants, and bequests from individuals, corporations,  
10 foundations, governmental agencies, and public and private organizations and  
11 institutions, to defray the Commission’s administrative expenses and to carry  
12 out its purposes as set forth in this chapter. The funds, gifts, grants, or  
13 bequests received pursuant to this chapter shall be deposited in a bank account  
14 and allocated annually by the State Treasurer’s office to defray the  
15 Commission’s administrative expenses and carry out its purposes. Any monies  
16 so withdrawn shall not be used for any purpose other than the payment of  
17 benefits and expenses under this chapter. Interest earned shall remain in the  
18 bank account.

19 (h) Members of the Commission shall not receive compensation or be  
20 entitled to reimbursement of expenses for their service on the Commission.

1       Sec. 2. INITIAL APPOINTMENT DEADLINE FOR VERMONT-IRELAND  
2                   TRADE COMMISSION

3               Initial appointments to the Vermont-Ireland Trade Commission shall be  
4       made not later than October 1, 2024.

5       Sec. 3. REPEAL; VERMONT-IRELAND TRADE COMMISSION

6               9 V.S.A. § 4129 (Vermont-Ireland Trade Commission) as added by this act  
7       is repealed on June 30, 2029.

8       Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

9               This act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

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(Committee vote: \_\_\_\_\_)

\_\_\_\_\_

Representative \_\_\_\_\_

FOR THE COMMITTEE