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S.78

Introduced by Senators Baruth, Beck, Bongartz, Brock, Chittenden, Clarkson,
Collamore, Cummings, Harrison, Hashim, Ingalls, Mattos,
Norris, Perchlik, Plunkett, Watson, Weeks, White and Williams

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Commerce and trade; international trade; trade commissions

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to create the
Vermont-Ireland Trade Commission to advance bilateral trade, investment, and
cultural exchange between Vermont and Ireland.

An act relating to the creation of the Vermont-Ireland Trade Commission

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

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

CHAPTER 111B. TRADE COMMISSIONS

§ 4129. VERMONT-IRELAND TRADE COMMISSION

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

(1) three members, appointed by the Governor;

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

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

2 and

3 (4) the State Treasurer or designee.

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

5 (1) advance bilateral trade and investment between Vermont and
6 Ireland;

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

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

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

12 (5) encourage mutual investment in the infrastructure of Vermont and
13 Ireland; and

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

15 (c) The members of the Commission, except for the State Treasurer or
16 designee, shall be appointed for terms of four years each and shall continue to
17 serve until their successors are appointed, except that in order to achieve
18 staggered terms, the three members appointed by the Governor shall serve
19 initial terms of two years each and the three members appointed by the Speaker
20 of the House shall serve initial terms of three years each. Members may be

1 reappointed. A member serves at the pleasure of the member's appointing
2 authority.

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

5 (e) The Commission shall select a chair from among its members at the
6 first meeting. The Chair, as appropriate, may appoint from among the
7 Commission members subcommittees or a subcommittee at the Chair's
8 discretion. A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a
9 quorum for purposes of transacting the business of the Commission.

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

14 (g) The Vermont-Ireland Trade Commission is authorized to raise funds,
15 through direct solicitation or other fundraising events, alone or with other
16 groups, and accept donations, grants, and bequests from individuals,
17 corporations, foundations, governmental agencies, and public and private
18 organizations and institutions, to defray the Commission's administrative
19 expenses and to carry out its purposes as set forth in this chapter. The funds,
20 donations, grants, or bequests received pursuant to this chapter shall be
21 deposited in a bank account and allocated annually by the State Treasurer's

1 office to defray the Commission's administrative expenses and carry out its
2 purposes. Any monies so withdrawn shall not be used for any purpose other
3 than the payment of expenses under this chapter. Interest earned shall remain
4 in the bank account.

5 (h) Members of the Commission shall not receive compensation or be
6 entitled to reimbursement of expenses by the State of Vermont for their service
7 on the Commission.

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

10 Initial appointments to the Vermont-Ireland Trade Commission shall be
11 made not later than October 1, 2025.

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

13 9 V.S.A. § 4129 (Vermont-Ireland Trade Commission) as added by this act
14 is repealed on June 30, 2030.

15 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

16 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.