

1 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

2 The Committee on Appropriations to which was referred House Bill No.  
3 674 entitled “An act relating to the creation of a Vermont Sister State  
4 Program” respectfully reports that it has considered the same and recommends  
5 that the report of the Committee on Commerce and Economic Development be  
6 amended as follows:

7 First: In Sec. 1, 3 V.S.A. § 2479, in subsection (a), by striking out  
8 subdivision (2) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision (2)  
9 to read as follows:

10 (2) The purpose of the Program is to strengthen Vermont’s international  
11 engagement and to foster mutually beneficial relationships with national and  
12 subnational governments abroad, with a goal of promoting cultural exchange,  
13 economic development, and educational cooperation.

14 Second: In Sec. 1, 3 V.S.A. § 2479, in subdivision (d)(1), by striking out  
15 subdivisions (D) and (E) in their entireties and inserting in lieu thereof three  
16 new subdivisions to be subdivisions (D), (E), and (F) to read as follows:

17 (D) a fixed-scoring system, including a rubric, to be uniformly  
18 applied by the Committee to evaluate all eligible applications;

19 (E) a memorandum of understanding template to be used and signed  
20 by the State and an approved Program partner that shall include a termination  
21 date; and

1           (F) any other necessary Program parameters, including the length of  
2           time for partner agreements to be in effect.

3           Third: In Sec. 1, 3 V.S.A. § 2479, in subdivision (d)(3), by striking out  
4           subdivision (B) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision  
5           (B) to read as follows:

6                   (B) If the Committee recommends that an application reviewed  
7                   pursuant to subdivision (A) of this subdivision (3) be approved, the Committee  
8                   shall submit its recommendation to the Governor along with a copy of the  
9                   application not later than 30 days after completing its review of the application.  
10                  The Committee shall not send to the Governor an application that the  
11                  Committee does not recommend be approved.

12           Fourth: In Sec. 1, 3 V.S.A. § 2479, in subdivision (d)(4)(A), by striking out  
13           the following sentence:

14                   The Governor shall not review or approve of a Program application that the  
15                   Committee recommended be disapproved.

16           Fifth: In Sec. 1, 3 V.S.A. § 2479, in subsection (d), by adding a new  
17           subdivision to be subdivision (5) to read as follows:

18                   (5) Termination. The Committee shall have the sole authority to terminate  
19                   an active Sister State Program partnership upon a majority vote of Committee  
20                   members at a Committee meeting.



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

4 (1) two members, appointed by the Governor;

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

6 (3) two members, appointed by the Senate Committee on Committees;

7 ~~and~~

8 (4) the State Treasurer or designee;

9 (5) the Commissioner of Economic Development or designee; and

10 (6) the President of the University of Vermont or designee.

11 \* \* \*

12 (c) The members of the Commission, ~~except for the State Treasurer or~~  
13 ~~designee,~~ appointed pursuant to subdivisions (a)(1)–(3) of this section:

14 (1) shall be appointed for terms of four years each and shall continue to  
15 serve until their successors are appointed, except that in order to achieve  
16 staggered terms, the two members appointed by the Governor shall serve initial  
17 terms of two years each and the two members appointed by the Speaker of the  
18 House shall serve initial terms of three years each;

19 (2) ~~Members~~ may be reappointed; upon the expiration of the member's  
20 term;



1 groups, and accept donations, grants, and bequests from individuals,  
2 corporations, foundations, governmental agencies, and public and private  
3 organizations and institutions, to defray the Commission’s administrative  
4 expenses ~~and to carry out its purposes as set forth in this chapter.~~

5 (2) The funds, donations, grants, or bequests received pursuant to this  
6 chapter subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be deposited in a bank account  
7 and allocated annually by the State Treasurer’s office to defray the  
8 Commission’s administrative expenses and carry out its purposes. Any monies  
9 so withdrawn shall not be used for any purpose other than the payment of  
10 administrative expenses under incurred pursuant to this chapter section and  
11 shall be itemized and tracked for reporting purposes by the State Treasurer’s  
12 office. Interest earned shall remain in the bank account. The State Treasurer  
13 shall include the balance of the account in the annual reporting required  
14 pursuant to subsection (f) of this section.

15 (3) For purposes of this section, “administrative expenses” does not  
16 include any:

17 (A) expenses related to:

18 (i) campaign or election activity; or

19 (ii) food or beverages provided at official Commission meetings;

20 or

1           (B) other expense that is not specific to the administrative functions  
2           of the Commission.

3           (h) Members of the Commission shall not receive any compensation or be  
4           entitled to reimbursement of expenses by the State of Vermont or from the  
5           fund managed by the State Treasurer pursuant to subsection (g) of this section  
6           for their service on the Commission.

7           Eighth: By adding a new section to be Sec. 2a to read as follows:

8           Sec. 2a. REPORT ON THE FUTURE OF THE VERMONT-IRELAND  
9                           TRADE COMMISSION

10           On or before December 1, 2029, the Vermont-Ireland Trade Commission  
11           shall submit a written report to the House Committee on Commerce and  
12           Economic Development and to the Senate Committee on Economic  
13           Development, Housing and General Affairs with the following information:

14                   (1) a summary of the accomplishments of the Commission since its  
15           inception;

16                   (2) a detailed analysis as to how the Commission has served its  
17           legislative purposes pursuant to 9 V.S.A. § 4129(b); and

18                   (3) an accounting on funds raised and details on gifts received pursuant  
19           to 9 V.S.A. § 4129(g) since the Commission's inception.

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

2

\_\_\_\_\_

3

Representative \_\_\_\_\_

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FOR THE COMMITTEE