

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

3 (f) Compensation and reimbursement.

4 (1) For attendance at meetings during adjournment of the General
5 Assembly, a legislative member of the Committee serving in the member's
6 capacity as a legislator shall be entitled to per diem compensation and
7 reimbursement of expenses pursuant to 2 V.S.A. § 23 for not more than eight
8 meetings per year. These payments shall be made from monies appropriated to
9 the General Assembly.

10 (2) Other members of the Committee shall be entitled to per diem
11 compensation and reimbursement of expenses as permitted under 32 V.S.A.
12 § 1010 for not more than eight meetings per year. These payments shall be
13 made from monies appropriated to the Agency of Commerce and Community
14 Development.

15 Seventh: By striking out Sec. 2, repeal, in its entirety and inserting in lieu
16 thereof a new Sec. 2 to read as follows:

17 Sec. 2. 9 V.S.A. chapter 111B is amended to read:

18 CHAPTER 111B. TRADE COMMISSIONS

19 § 4129. VERMONT-IRELAND TRADE COMMISSION

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;

(4) ~~Not shall consist of not~~ more than two members ~~serving on the~~
Commission may be members of the General Assembly.

* * *

(1) disclosure listing any in-kind contributions received by specific members of the Commission through their work in the Commission in the current calendar year; and

(A) administrative expenses that have been paid with funds raised by
the Commission, pursuant to subsection (g) of this section; and

(g)(1) The Vermont-Ireland Trade Commission is authorized to raise funds, through direct solicitation or other fundraising events, alone or with other

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 _____

4 FOR THE COMMITTEE