

HOUSE BILL No. 2675

By Representative Bohi

2-3

1 AN ACT concerning economic development, relating to international
2 trade; establishing the Kansas-Italy trade commission to advance,
3 promote and encourage business and other mutually beneficial
4 activities between Kansas and Italy; establishing the Kansas-Italy trade
5 commission fund.

6

7 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

8 Section 1. (a) There is hereby established the Kansas-Italy trade
9 commission. The commission shall consist of 13 members as follows:

10 (1) The chairperson of the senate standing committee on commerce
11 and the chairperson of the house of representatives standing committee on
12 commerce, labor and economic development, as appointed by the
13 president of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives,
14 respectively;

15 (2) (A) (i) two members of the senate, one of whom shall be
16 appointed by the president of the senate and one of whom shall be
17 appointed by the minority leader of the senate; and

18 (ii) two members of the house of representatives, one of whom shall
19 be appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and one of
20 whom shall be appointed by the minority leader of the house of
21 representatives.

22 (B) Such appointees shall have interest in the well-being of trade
23 relations between Kansas and Italy and current or past involvement in
24 businesses engaged in international trade, preferably with Italy, or
25 organizations that promote international trade or Italian-American affairs;

26 (3) six members, two of whom shall be appointed by the governor,
27 two by the speaker of the house of representatives and two by the president
28 of the senate. The two members appointed by the governor, speaker of the
29 house of representatives and president of the senate, respectively, shall
30 each be a representative of either:

31 (A) A Kansas postsecondary public education institution;

32 (B) the Italian-American community in Kansas who is interested in
33 furthering trade between Kansas and Italy;

34 (C) a Kansas industry engaged in or seeking to engage in trade with
35 Italy; or

36 (D) a Kansas business association, trade organization, economic

1 development organization or chamber of commerce engaged in or
2 interested in engaging in the furtherance of trade with Italy; and

3 (4) the secretary of commerce or the secretary's designee who has
4 responsibilities with respect to international trade.

5 (b) No public postsecondary educational institution, industry,
6 business association, trade organization or chamber of commerce shall
7 have more than one representative serving as a member of the
8 commission. Not more than two representatives of the Kansas-Italian
9 community appointed pursuant to subsection (a)(3)(B) shall serve on the
10 commission and, if more than one such representative is appointed to
11 serve, such representatives shall not be members of the same political
12 party.

13 (c) (1) Legislative members shall serve for a term corresponding to
14 the two-year biennial legislative session in which they are appointed to the
15 council and remain members of the legislature to retain membership on the
16 council. Vacancies of legislative members shall be filled for the unexpired
17 portion of the term in the same manner as the original appointment. The
18 appointing authority for a legislative member may remove a member and
19 substitute such member with another appointee at any time. Legislative
20 members may be reappointed.

21 (2) All nonlegislative members shall serve a term of three years.
22 Vacancies of nonlegislative members shall be filled for the unexpired
23 portion of the term in the same manner as the original appointment. The
24 appointing authority for the nonlegislative member may remove a member
25 and substitute such member with another appointee at any time.
26 Nonlegislative members may be reappointed.

27 (d) A member of the commission attending meetings of such
28 commission or attending a subcommittee meeting thereof authorized by
29 such commission shall be paid compensation, subsistence allowances,
30 mileage and other expenses as provided in K.S.A. 75-3223, and
31 amendments thereto, for each day or part thereof in which such member
32 attended a meeting authorized by the commission. A member shall be
33 reimbursed for other necessary and reasonable expenses actually incurred
34 in the performance of such member's official duties. A member's
35 compensation, allowances and expenses incurred from the attendance at
36 meetings of the commission and any administrative expenses of the
37 commission shall be paid from any account of the state general fund of the
38 department of commerce as designated by the secretary of commerce.

39 (e) The commission shall hold meetings at least once each quarter.
40 Meetings shall be held in Topeka, Kansas, at the call of the chairperson.
41 Upon the chairperson's request, the secretary of commerce shall provide
42 appropriate meeting facilities for the commission. Meetings shall be open
43 to the public.

1 (f) A majority of the members of the commission shall constitute a
2 quorum for the transaction of business.

3 (g) The chairperson of the house of representatives standing
4 committee on commerce, labor and economic development shall serve as
5 the chairperson of the council when first organized and for the ensuing two
6 years. The chairperson of the senate standing committee on commerce
7 shall serve as the chairperson of the council for the next succeeding two
8 years, and thereafter, the office of chairperson shall continue to alternate
9 between the chambers.

10 (h) The chairperson may appoint subcommittees and subcommittee
11 chairpersons from among the commission members.

12 (i) The commission shall keep records of all proceedings. Such
13 records shall be public and open to inspection.

14 (j) The staff of the office of revisor of statutes, the legislative research
15 department and the division of legislative administrative services shall
16 provide such assistance as may be requested by the chairperson.

17 Sec. 2. (a) The purposes of the Kansas-Italy trade commission shall
18 be to advance, promote and encourage business and other mutually
19 beneficial activities between Kansas and Italy, including:

- 20 (1) Bilateral trade and investment;
- 21 (2) joint action on policy issues of mutual interest;
- 22 (3) business and academic exchanges;
- 23 (4) mutual economic support;
- 24 (5) mutual investment in respective infrastructure; and
- 25 (6) other opportunities for mutual benefit and economic growth as
26 identified by the commission.

27 (b) The commission shall report findings, activities, results and
28 recommendations to the governor and the legislature within one year of the
29 commission's initial meeting and by February 1 of each succeeding year
30 for the activities of the preceding calendar year. The report shall be in
31 writing and may include recommendations or proposed legislation as
32 deemed appropriate by the commission to effectuate the commission's
33 purposes.

34 (c) The commission shall be authorized to raise funds to carry out the
35 purposes of the commission and accept gifts, grants and bequests from
36 individuals, corporations, foundations, governmental agencies and public
37 and private organizations and institutions. All such funds, gifts, grants or
38 bequests received shall be deposited in the Kansas-Italy trade commission
39 fund established in section 3, and amendments thereto, and all
40 expenditures from such fund shall be for the purposes of the commission
41 and authorized upon the majority vote of the commission.

42 Sec. 3. (a) There is hereby established in the state treasury the
43 Kansas-Italy trade commission fund, which shall be administered by the

1 chairperson of the Kansas-Italy trade commission or the chairperson's
2 designee. At the request of the chairperson, the secretary of commerce or
3 the secretary's designee shall serve as the designee of the chairperson with
4 respect to the administration of the fund. All moneys received from any
5 private donation, gift, grant or bequest made to the commission for the
6 purposes of this act shall be remitted to the state treasurer in accordance
7 with the provisions of K.S.A. 75-4215, and amendments thereto. Upon
8 receipt of each such remittance, the state treasurer shall deposit the entire
9 amount in the state treasury to the credit of the Kansas-Italy trade
10 commission fund. All expenditures from the Kansas-Italy trade
11 commission fund shall be for the purposes of the Kansas-Italy trade
12 commission, authorized upon a majority vote of the commission and made
13 in accordance with appropriation acts upon warrants of the director of
14 accounts and reports issued pursuant to vouchers approved by the
15 chairperson of the Kansas-Italy trade commission or the chairperson's
16 designee.

17 (b) On or before the 10th of each month, the director of accounts and
18 reports shall transfer from the state general fund to the Kansas-Italy trade
19 commission fund interest earnings based on:

20 (1) The average daily balance of moneys in the Kansas-Italy trade
21 commission fund for the preceding month; and

22 (2) the net earnings rate for the pooled money investment portfolio
23 for the preceding month.

24 Sec. 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
25 publication in the statute book.