

TESTIMONY ON BILL NO. 31-0161

COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER & VETERANS AFFAIRS

31st LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 2016

EARLE B. OTTLEY LEGISLATIVE HALL

ST. THOMAS, VIRGIN ISLANDS

9:00 A.M.

CLARINA MODESTE ELLIOTT, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

COMMISSIONER, DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, ON BEHALF OF:

VALDAMIER O. COLLENS, COMMISSIONER

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

GOOD MORNING, HONORABLE JUSTIN HARRIGAN, SR., CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER & VETERANS AFFAIRS, OTHER MEMBERS OF THE 31ST LEGISLATURE, THE MEDIA, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN IN THE LEGISLATIVE CHAMBERS AND THE LISTENING AND VIEWING AUDIENCE. I AM CLARINA MODESTE ELLIOTT, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER, OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE TESTIFYING ON BEHALF OF VALDAMIER O. COLLENS, COMMISSIONER, OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE.

I AM HERE TODAY TO PROVIDE TESTIMONY WITH RESPECT TO BILL NO. 31-0161, AN ACT AMENDING TITLE 20 VIRGIN ISLANDS CODE, PART II, CHAPTER 43 BY ADDING SECTION 513 TO SPECIFICALLY DESIGNATE THE PERCENTAGES OF THE FINES COLLECTED UNDER PART II OF TITLE 20 VIRGIN ISLANDS CODE AND THE ENTITIES THAT ARE THE RECEIPIENTS OF THE FINES, THAT READS AS FOLLOWS:

82 PERCENT MUST BE COVERED OVER TO THE BUREAU OF MOTOR VEHICLES; 10 PERCENT MUST BE COVERED OVER TO THE

VIRGIN ISLANDS POLICE DEPARTMENT DIVIDED EQUALLY BETWEEN THE DISTRICT OF ST. CROIX AND THE DISTRICT OF ST. THOMAS AND ST. JOHN; AND 8 PERCENT MUST BE COVERED OVER TO THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS.

TRAFFIC VIOLATION FEES WITH THE EXCEPTION OF PARKING IN HANDICAPPED ZONE FEES (WHICH SHOULD GO TO DHS HANDICAP FUND) ARE COLLECTED IN THE TRANSPORTATION TRUST FUND (TTF) AND REPRESENTS ABOUT 6 PERCENT OF THE FUND.

THESE MONIES EVENTUALLY REVERT TO THE GENERAL FUND, OF WHICH THE SPECIFIED AGENCIES BENEFIT. SIX PERCENT (OR \$2.3M) IS A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF FUNDS TO TRANSFER FROM THE GENERAL FUND IN A TIME WHERE REVENUES ARE SCARCE. THEREFORE, WE CANNOT SUPPORT SHIFTING FUNDS FROM THE GENERAL FUND AT THIS TIME.

MR. CHAIRMAN, THIS CONCLUDES MY TESTIMONY. I AM AVAILABLE TO RESPOND TO QUESTIONS FROM THE MEMBERS OF THIS COMMITTEE (AND OTHER SENATORS PRESENT) WITH RESPECT TO THE LEGISLATION UNDER CONSIDERATION.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
VALDAMIER O. COLLENS, COMMISSIONER
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
JANUARY 22, 2016

THANK YOU.