

Drafted & Reviewed
By Legal Counsel



AMENDMENT TO BILL NO. 31-0176
Offered by Senator Terrence "Positive" Nelson

Bill No. 31-0176 is amended as follows:

- (a) Section 1 is as follows:
1. Page 2, internal section 541, subsection (c), line 3 is amended by striking "the members of the Legislature"; line 4 is amended by inserting "the Attorney General," after "including" and on line 5 by striking "Attorney General".
 2. Page 2, internal section 542, subsection (b), line 16 is amended by striking "political subdivision" and inserting "any autonomous or semi-autonomous instrumentality of the Government of the Virgin Islands" and on line 17 by striking "judicial officer" and inserting "the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court".
 3. Internal section 543 is amended as follows:
 - a. Subsection (a), page 3, line 16 by inserting "the Attorney General," after "including";
 - b. by striking the last sentence in subsection (a) and inserting a new sentence that reads: "The Commission may hold public hearings and invite members of the public, the Virgin Islands Bar, judicial officers, Government officials, and experts to provide testimony." and
 - c. by adding subsections (c) and (d) to read as follows:

"(c) In order to carry out its responsibilities to make findings, conclusions and recommendations as to the proper salary and benefits of the judicial officers, the Commission shall consider the following additional factors:

- (1) The skill, experience, and education required of a particular judicial office;
- (2) The value of compensable service performed by judicial officers, as determined by reference to judicial compensation in the District Court of the Virgin Islands, the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, the states comprising the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit and the District of Columbia;
- (3) The compensation of attorneys in the private sector, government, academia, and non-profit enterprises with comparable responsibility, training and experience; and
- (4) Changes in the cost of living for judicial officers relative to the last time judicial compensation was set for a particular judgeship, including any increase in health or retirement contributions to be paid by the judicial officer.

(d) When considering the factors enumerated in subsections (b) and (c) of this section, the Commission may employ such academic or professional experts to provide statistical analyses and relevant data.”

4. Page 4, internal section 544, subsection (a) line 20 by striking “Judicial official” and inserting “judicial officer”.
5. Page 5, internal section 545, line 2 is amended by striking “a Judicial officer” and inserting “the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court”.
6. By adding a sections 546 to read as follows:

“§ 546. The Legislature shall act upon the recommendations of the Commission not later than 180 days after the recommendations have been submitted to the Legislature.”

- (b) Section (2) is amended by inserting the following sentence at the end of the section: “The funds remain available until expended.””

Amendment No. 31-973/April 13, 2016/SLR