



Legislature of the Virgin Islands  
**COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT SERVICES,  
CONSUMER AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
Senator Justin Harrigan, Sr. - Chairman

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Iver A. Stridiron, Esq.  
Executive Director

**FROM:** The Honorable Justin Harrigan, Sr.  
Chairman, Committee on Government Services, Consumer and Veterans Affairs

**DATE:** April 15, 2016

**RE:** 4/13/16 CGSCVA Committee Report

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The Committee on Government Services, Consumer and Veterans Affairs met on **Wednesday, April 13, 2016** at the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall on St. Thomas to consider Bill Nos. 31-0161 and 31-0176 and to receive testimony from the VI Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs in regards to the high cost of fuel and food in the Territory, in addition to other Vendors' Plaza issues.

Please find attached 4/13/16 CGSCVA Committee Report.

For questions or concerns, please contact Committee Coordinator, Amrika Williams at (340) 693-3586 or [amwilliams@legvi.org](mailto:amwilliams@legvi.org).

Cc: All Senators  
Chief Legal Counsel



# COMMITTEE REPORT

Meeting  
 Wednesday, April 13, 2016  
 9:45 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
 Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall  
 St. Thomas, VI

**PURPOSE:** **Block I:** To consider the following bills:

**Bill No. 31-0161** - An Act amending title 20 Virgin Islands Code, Part II, chapter 43 relating to traffic fines *Proposed by Senator Sammuell Sanes*

**Bill No. 31-0176** - An Act amending title 3 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 25 adding subchapter IVa enacting the Virgin Islands Public Officials Compensation Act *Proposed by Senator Positive Nelson*

**Block II:** To receive testimony from the VI Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs in regards to the high cost of fuel and food in the Territory and other Vendors' Plaza issues.

**ROLL CALL FOR ATTENDANCE:**

Committee Member	Present	Absent
Senator Myron Jackson, Vice Chair	1	
Senator Neville James, President	2	
Senator Terrence Nelson	3	
Senator Tregenza Roach	4	
Senator Sammuell Sanes	5	
Senator Janette Millin Young	6	
Senator Justin Harrigan, Sr., Chair	7	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>-</b>

Chairman Justin Harrigan, Sr. called the meeting to order and stated its purpose. **Bill No. 31-0161** was introduced by sponsor Senator Sammuell Sanes. Following, Committee members present vetted the bill in a 5-minute round. Senator Sanes then made a motion to amend the bill with Amendment No. 31-833. With no objections, the amendment was so ordered. Thereafter, Senator Sanes made a motion to vote favorably upon the bill as amended and forward to the Committee on Rules and Judiciary for further consideration. The motion was properly moved, seconded and voted upon. With six 'yea' majority votes, the bill as amended passed.

**ACTION TAKEN ON BILL NO. 31-0161: PASSED (AS AMENDED)**

**VOTE ON MOTION TO AMEND BILL NO. 31-0161 WITH AMENDMENT NO. 31-833:  
SO ORDERED**

**VOTE ON MOTION TO VOTE FAVORABLY ON AND FORWARD TO THE  
COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JUDICIARY BILL NO. 31-0161:**

Committee Member	Yea	Nay	Absent	Not Voting
Senator Myron Jackson, Vice Chair	1			
Senator Neville James, President			1	
Senator Terrence Nelson	2			
Senator Tregenza Roach	3			
Senator Sammuell Sanes	4			
Senator Janette Millin Young	5			
Senator Justin Harrigan, Sr., Chair	6			
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b>6</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>

Next, bill sponsor Senator Positive Nelson introduced **Bill No. 31-0176**. Committee members present vetted the bill in a 5-minute round and a follow-up 2-minute round. Then Senator Nelson made a motion to amend the bill with Amendment No. 31-973. With no objections, the amendment was so ordered. Thereafter, Senator Sanes made a motion to vote favorably upon the bill as amended and forward to the Committee on Rules and Judiciary for further consideration. The motion was properly moved, seconded and voted upon. With seven ‘yea’ votes, the bill as amended passed.

**ACTION TAKEN ON BILL NO. 31-0176: PASSED (AS AMENDED)**

**VOTE ON MOTION TO AMEND BILL NO. 31-0176 WITH AMENDMENT NO. 31-973:  
SO ORDERED**

**VOTE ON MOTION TO VOTE FAVORABLY ON AND FORWARD TO THE  
COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JUDICIARY BILL NO. 31-0176:**

Committee Member	Yea	Nay	Absent	Not Voting
Senator Myron Jackson, Vice Chair	1			
Senator Neville James, President	2			
Senator Terrence Nelson	3			
Senator Tregenza Roach	4			
Senator Sammuell Sanes	5			
Senator Janette Millin Young	6			
Senator Justin Harrigan, Sr., Chair	7			
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b>7</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

Later, the Committee received testimony from V.I. Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs Commissioner Devin Carrington in regards to the high cost of fuel and food in the Territory and Vendors' Plaza issues. Commissioner Carrington was accompanied by Licensing Director Horace Graham, Jr. and Consumer Affairs Director Beatrice Gumbs. Carrington's testimony highlighted that Act No. 6864 authorizes DLCA to implement price control measures and if warranted, after a study on profit margins on consumer commodities such measures shall be implemented. In addition, the Commissioner in his testimony, recognized that the Vendors' Plaza on St. Thomas was not aesthetically pleasing and is awaiting an improvement plan from Public Works Commissioner Gustav James. Ms. Laurie Chapman, President of the V.I. Vendors Association also presented testimony. Ms. Chapman recommended that a roof structure be erected to enhance the viability and appearance of the site. Moreover, she stated that the association helped secure a grant for such improvements, as well as highlighting other monies in the Cleaning Fund that have not been utilized. Committee members present questioned testifiers in a 6-minute round and a follow-up 2-minute round. After the discussion, DLCA Commissioner Carrington closed by pledging to make some short-term improvements, reiterated that there was close collaboration with the Department and the Vendors Association and is looking into a long-term fix for the vendors' plaza. Testifiers were thanked for their participation and then excused.

Lastly, Chairman Justin Harrigan, Sr. made closing remarks and adjourned meeting of the Committee on Government Services, Consumer and Veterans Affairs.

*All testimonies and relevant meeting documents are available on the 31<sup>st</sup> Legislature Committees drive (U:)*