

1 COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT SERVICES
2
3 CONSUMER AND VETERANS AFFAIRS
4
5 31ST LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
6
7 BUREAU OF MOTOR VEHICLES
8

9 APRIL 22, 2015
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13 GOOD MORNING MR. CHAIRMAN, MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE
14 ON GOVERNMENT SERVICES, CONSUMER AND VETERANS AFFAIRS,
15 OTHER MEMBERS OF THE 31ST LEGISLATURE, MEMBERS OF THE PRESS,
16 LADIES AND GENTLEMAN. I AM LAWRENCE ANTHONY OLIVE
17 DIRECTOR DESIGNEE FOR THE BUREAU OF MOTOR VEHICLES, AND I
18 AM PLEASED TO APPEAR BEFORE YOU AS REQUESTED, TO GIVE
19 TESTIMONY ON BILL NUMBER 31-0002, AN ACT AMENDING TITLE 20,
20 VIRGIN ISLANDS CODE, CHAPTER 39, SECTION 436, TO ALLOW FOR
21 DISCOUNTS FOR OBTAINING OR RENEWING TAXI LICENSING FOR
22 SENIOR CITIZENS.
23

24 MR. CHAIRMAN I AM NOT IN SUPPORT OF BILL NUMBER 31-0002
25 FOR VARIOUS REASONS. FIRST LET ME STATE THE BUREAU OF
26 MOTOR VEHICLES IS A REVENUE GENERATING AGENCY FOR THE
27 GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS. THE BUREAU OF MOTOR
28 VEHICLES NOW AN INDEPENDENT AGENCY WAS ESTABLISHED BY
29 ACT NUMBER 6761, BILL NUMBER 26-005 WHICH WAS PASSED BY THE
30 TWENTY-SIXTH (26th) LEGISLATURE. THE BUREAU'S MISSION IS TO

31 “DELIVER COORDINATED CUSTOMER SERVICES TO THE MOTORING
32 PUBLIC THAT CONTRIBUTES TO A SAFER COMMUNITY”. THE BMV AS
33 ESTABLISHED UNDER TITLE 3, VIRGIN ISLANDS CODE IS AUTHORIZE
34 TO REGISTER MOTOR VEHICLES, CONDUCT INSPECTION, ADMINISTER
35 WRITTEN AND ROAD TESTS, ISSUED DRIVER’S LICENSE AND COLLECT
36 FEES WHICH ARE DEPOSITED DAILY.

37

38 FISCAL YEAR 2014, THE BUREAU COLLECTED IN REVENUES
39 \$7,416,516.19. ST. THOMAS COLLECTED \$3,715,722.85, ST. CROIX
40 COLLECTED \$3,184,278.61 AND ST. JOHN COLLECTED \$516,514.73. THE
41 BUREAU HAS THREE FUNDING SOURCES WHICH ARE THE GENERAL
42 FUND, BUREAU OF MOTOR VEHICLE FUND AND THE PERSONALIZED
43 PLATES FUND.

44

45 THE BMV LICENSE SYSTEMS HAVE SHOWN THAT THE
46 TERRITORY HAS 73,159 LICENSE DRIVERS. 34,067 ON ST. THOMAS,
47 35,263 ON ST. CROIX AND 3,829 ON ST. JOHN. FROM THAT TOTAL 21,753
48 ARE SENIOR CITIZENS. ST. THOMAS HAS 9,903, ST. CROIX HAS 10,683
49 AND ST. JOHN HAVE 1,167.

50

51 THE BUREAU OF MOTOR VEHICLES LICENSE SYSTEM HAS 2,030
52 DRIVERS LICENSE OPERATORS WITH CLASS “C” LICENSE IN OUR
53 DATABASE. ST. CROIX HAS 383 LICENSE WITH 282 ARE SENIORS, ST.
54 THOMAS HAS 1,449, WITH 854 OF THE OPERATORS ARE SENIORS AND
55 ST. JOHN HAS 198 LICENSE CLASS “C” OPERATORS WITH 89 ARE SENIOR
56 CITIZENS.

57

58 MY REASONS FOR NOT SUPPORTING THE BILL ARE THAT TAXI
59 OPERATORS IN THE VIRGIN ISLANDS HAVE THE MOST BENEFITS THAT
60 THIS GOVERNMENT PROVIDES. FIRST, THEY PAY NO ROAD TAX ON
61 THEIR VEHICLES. SECONDLY, ACT NO. 7015, SIGNED INTO LAW
62 SEPTEMBER 17, 2012, AMENDING SECTION 43 (F) CHAPTER 3 TITLE 33
63 OF THE V. I. CODE. “A SMALL BUSINESS IS NOW DEFINE AS A BUSINESS
64 OF A CONTROLLED GROUP OF BUSINESS THAT GROSSES LESS THAN
65 \$225,000.00 ANNUALLY (INSTEAD OF \$150,000 ANNUALLY)”. THESE
66 SMALL BUSINESS WILL BE EXEMPTED FROM THE PAYMENT OF GROSS
67 RECEIPT TAX ON THE FIRST \$9,000.00 OF GROSS RECEIPTS EACH
68 MONTH. TAXIS BUSINESS FALLS IN THIS CATEGORY.

69
70 TITLE 20, VIRGIN ISLANDS CODE, CHAPTER 39, SECTION 436.
71 **REDUCED LICENSE FEES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS AND THE**
72 **HANDICAPPED** WHICH STATES “ THE CERTIFICATE OF TITLE FEE, THE
73 REGISTRATION LICENSE FEE AND THE OPERATOR’S PRIVATE LICENSE
74 FEE AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 433 OF THIS TITLE SHALL BE REDUCED
75 BY 50% FOR SENIOR CITIZENS AND PERSONS WHO ARE
76 HANDICAPPED”. SENATORS WE ARE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THIS LAW.

77
78 BILL NO. 30-0463, ACT NUMBER 7699, WAS PASSED BY THE
79 THIRTIETH (30) LEGISLATURE. “SECTION 17, TITLE 20, VIRGIN ISLANDS
80 CODE , CHAPTER 37, IS AMENDED IN THE FOLLOWING INSTANCES: (A)
81 SECTION 401 IS AMENDED IN THE FOLLOWING INSTANCES: (1)
82 SUBSECTION (A) IS AMENDED IN THE FIRST SENTENCE BY STRIKING
83 THE PHRASE “DIRECTOR OF MOTOR VEHICLES, AND PROVIDED ,
84 HOWEVER, HIS APPLICATION HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE “; AND IN

85 PARAGRAPHS (4) AND (5) BY STRIKING EVERY OCCURRENCE OF
86 “DIRECTOR” AND INSERTING “COMMISSION” IN ITS PLACE; AND

87

88 (2) SUBSECTION (D) IS AMENDING BY STRIKING “DIRECTOR OF
89 MOTOR VEHICLES “AND BY STRIKING “DIRECTOR” AND REPLACING
90 WITH “COMMISSION” (B) SECTION 401A. SENATORS THESE SECTIONS
91 HAVE TO DO WITH “**REGISTRATION AND LICENSES; OPERATORS’
92 BADGES; IDENTIFICATION CARDS AND ISSUANCE OF BADGE AND
93 IDENTIFICATION CARD WITHOUT COMPLIANCE WITH
94 REQUIREMENTS; NUMBER OF OPERATORS; RENEWAL**”. SINCE
95 FISCAL YEAR 2015, THE BMV NO LONGER PROVIDES THAT SERVICE.
96 WHAT HAS HAPPEN IS REVENUES THAT WAS GENERATED BY AN
97 AGENCY THAT SUPPORT THE GENERAL FUND WAS TAKEN AWAY AND
98 GIVEN TO AN AGENCY THAT DO NOT SUPPORT THE GENERAL FUND.

99

100 BEFORE BILL NUMBER 30-0463, THE BUREAU CHARGED TAXI
101 DRIVERS FOUR DOLLARS FOR THE MEDICAL FORM APPLICATION,
102 THIRTY (\$30.00) DOLLARS FOR THE WRITTEN TEST, FIFTY-TWO (\$52.00)
103 DOLLARS FOR THE LICENSE AND SEVENTY-SEVEN (\$77.00) DOLLARS
104 FOR THE BADGE. CURRENTLY THE BMV IS ONLY CHARGING TAXI
105 DRIVERS FOUR (\$4.00) DOLLARS FOR THE MEDICAL FORM
106 APPLICATION AND SIXTY-FIVE (\$65.00) DOLLARS FOR A DRIVERS
107 LICENSE. ALSO, THE BMV NO LONGER ADMINISTER THE WRITTEN
108 TAXI EXAM.

109

110 FISCAL YEAR 2012, THE BMV ISSUED 345 TAXI BADGES AND
111 COLLECTED \$25,875.00, FISCAL YEAR 2013, 170 BADGES WERE ISSUED

112 AND THE BMV COLLECTED \$12,675.00 IN REVENUES, AND FISCAL YEAR
113 2014, 281 BADGES WERE ISSUED AND WE COLLECTED \$21,637.00.
114 WHEN YOU COMBINED ALL THREE FISCAL YEARS THE BMV ISSUED
115 796 BADGES AND COLLECTED A COMBINED TOTAL IN REVENUES OF
116 \$60,187.00. FISCAL YEAR 2015, THE BMV NO LONGER ISSUES TAXI
117 BADGES.

118
119 WITH NO DISRESPECT TO SENIORS OR TAXI OPERATORS FAIR IS
120 FAIR. THERE ARE SEVERAL CLASSES OF SPECIALTY DRIVERS
121 LICENSES THAT THE BUREAU OFFER SUCH AS HEAVY EQUIPMENT,
122 SCHOOL BUS, AND MOTORCYCLE. GIVING TAXI OPERATORS ONLY
123 THE DISCOUNT WILL BE PROBLEMATIC IN THE LONG RUN WITH THE
124 POTENTIAL TO LOSE FUTURE REVENUES.

125
126 THE BMV OFFERS DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF DRIVERS
127 LICENSES WHICH INCLUDES NEW, RENEWAL, SENIOR CITIZEN, TAXI,
128 SCHOOL BUS, HEAVY EQUIPMENT, MOTORCYCLE AND DUPLICATES.
129 FISCAL YEAR 2012, THE BMV PRODUCED 16,934 DRIVER LICENSES AND
130 COLLECTED \$496,113.98 IN REVENUES, OF THE TOTAL PRODUCED 330
131 LICENSES WERE TAXI LICENSES WHICH COLLECTED \$16,500.00,
132 FISCAL YEAR 2013, WE PRODUCED 12,849 DRIVER LICENSES AND
133 COLLECTED \$380,798.92, IN REVENUES OF THE TOTAL LICENSE
134 PRODUCED 141 WERE TAXI DRIVERS AND WE COLLECTED \$7,050.00 IN
135 REVENUES.

136
137 FISCAL YEAR 2014, THE BMV PRODUCED 15,093 DRIVER LICENSE
138 AND COLLECTED \$455,856.22 IN REVENUES OF THE TOTAL PRODUCED

139 263 WERE TAXI DRIVERS AND WE COLLECTED \$13,676.00 IN REVENUES
140 AND FINALLY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015, UP TO MARCH 31, 2015, THE
141 BUREAU PRODUCED 7,927 DRIVER LICENSES AND COLLECTED
142 \$226,768.60. OF WHICH 207 WERE TAXI LICENSES AND GENERATED
143 REVENUES OF \$12,550.00.

144

145 FINALLY, WE ALL KNOW THAT THIS GOVERNMENT IS IN A
146 FINANCIAL QUAGMIRE AT THIS TIME. REDUCING ANY REVENUES
147 WOULD GREATLY HAMPER THE INTAKE OF CASH FLOW INTO THIS
148 GOVERNMENT.

149

150 I AM HERE TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS.
151 THANKS FOR HAVING ME HERE TO VOICE MY OPINION ON THIS
152 MATTER.