

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT SERVICES,  
CONSUMER AND VETERANS' AFFAIRS

**BILL NO. 31-0399**

**Thirty-first Legislature of the Virgin Islands**

**August 18, 2016**

An Act amending title 23 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 19, subchapter I, section 1508 relating to the duties of the Adjutant General requiring the Adjutant General to administer the youth About Face and the adult Forward March programs

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**PROPOSED BY:** Senators Kurt A. Vialet, Sammuell Sanes, Clifford F. Graham  
Marvin A. Blyden, Novelle E. Francis, Jr.,  
Terrence "Positive" Nelson, and Nereida Rivera-O'Reilly

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1 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:*

2           **SECTION 1.** Title 23 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 19, subchapter I, section  
3 1508, is amended by adding subsections (d) and (e) to read as follows:

4           “(d) Subject to annual appropriations, the Adjutant General shall establish and  
5 administer Youth About Face program. The program must:

6                   (1) operate as a summer and year-round after-school life preparation  
7 program for economically disadvantaged and at-risk youths from 13-17 years of  
8 age;

9                   (2) provide schoolwork assistance, focusing on the skills needed to  
10 master basic high school competencies and functional life skills, including  
11 teaching students to work effectively in groups;

12                   (3) provide basic instruction in computer skills;

1           (4)    teach basic problem-solving, decision-making, and reasoning  
2           skills;

3           (5)    provide instruction through computer simulations on how the  
4           business world and free enterprise work;

5           (6)    training in basic skills that businesses require for employment  
6           consideration; and

7           (7)    teach home finance and budgeting and other daily living skills.

8           (e)    Subject to annual appropriations, the Adjutant General shall establish and  
9           administer Forward March job-readiness programs for economically disadvantaged  
10          young adults ages 18-29 who are directed to Forward March by the Department of Labor.

11         The Forward March program must:

12                 (1)    provide training on topics that directly relate to the skills required  
13                 for real-world success;

14                 (2)    emphasize functional life skills, computer literacy, interpersonal  
15                 relationships, critical thinking skills, business skills, pre-employment and work  
16                 maturity skills, job-search skills and job-specific skills;

17                 (3)    explore careers activities, including how to be a successful and  
18                 effective employee;

19                 (4)    provide extensive opportunities for participants to practice generic  
20                 job skills in a supervised work setting; and

21                 (5)    upon completion of the program, return participants to the  
22                 Department of Labor for placement in the job placement pool.”

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**BILL SUMMARY**

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2           This bill amends title 23 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 19, subchapter I, section  
3 1508 by requiring the Adjutant General to administer the youth About Face and the adult  
4 Forward March programs. About Face is a summer and year-round after-school life  
5 preparation program for economically disadvantaged and at-risk youths from 13-17 years  
6 of age. Forward March is a job-readiness program for economically disadvantaged young  
7 adults ages 18-29 who are directed to Forward March by Department of Labor.

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10 **BR16-1430/July 27, 2016/GC**  
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