



Legislature of the Virgin Islands
**Committee on Government Services,
Consumer and Veterans affairs**
Senator Justin Harrigan, Sr. - Chairman

COMMITTEE REPORT

Meeting

Wednesday, September 30, 2015

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall

St. Thomas, VI

PURPOSE: To consider Bill Nos. 31-0105, 31-0117, 31-0158 and 31-0129

ROLL CALL: Members Present: Senator Myron Jackson, Vice Chairman, Senator Neville James, President, Senator Terrence Nelson, Senator Tregenza Roach, Senator Sammuell Sanes, Senator Janette Millin Young and Senator Justin Harrigan, Sr., Chairman (7) **Non-Member Present:** Senator Marvin Blyden (1)

Chairman Justin Harrigan, Sr. called the meeting to order and stated its purpose. The meeting proceeded with testimony on **Bill No. 31-0105** by Levron Sarauw, Sr., Acting Director of the V.I. Taxicab Commission and Monica Williams Carbon, Legal Counsel, Division of Banking and Insurance, Office of the Lt. Governor who was accompanied by Attorney Dolace McLean, General Counsel, Office of the Lieutenant Governor. Testimonies were followed by two rounds of questioning by all Senators present. Lawrence Olive, Director of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles was present and participated during questioning. Senator Sammuell Sanes made a motion to vote favorably upon the bill and forward to the Committee on Rules and Judiciary. The motion was properly moved, seconded and voted upon. With six 'yea' majority votes, the bill passed. Testifiers were thanked for their participation and excused.

ACTION TAKEN ON BILL NO. 31-0105: PASSED

VOTE ON MOTION TO VOTE FAVORABLY ON AND FORWARD TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JUDICIARY BILL NO. 31-0105:

YEA: Senator Myron Jackson, Senator Neville James, President, Senator Terrence Nelson, Senator Sammuell Sanes, Senator Janette Millin Young and Senator Justin Harrigan, Sr., Chairman (6)

NAY: Senator Tregenza Roach (1)

Next, the Clerk read into the record a letter from Denyce Singleton, State Director of AARP—VI. The Committee continued to receive testimony on **Bill No. 31-0117** by Executive Director Carlton Dowe of the V.I. Port Authority. Testimony was followed by a round of questioning by all Senators present. A motion was made by Senator Myron Jackson to hold the bill in Committee. The motion was properly moved, seconded and voted upon. With three 'yea' votes, the bill was held. Testifier was thanked for his participation and excused.

ACTION TAKEN ON BILL NO. 31-0117: HELD

VOTE ON MOTION TO HOLD IN COMMITTEE BILL NO. 31-0117:

YEA: Senator Myron Jackson, Senator Tregenza Roach and Senator Justin Harrigan, Sr., Chairman (3)

NAY: Senator Sammuell Sanes (1)

ABSENT: Senator Neville James, President, Senator Terrence Nelson and Senator Janette Millin Young (3)

Later, the Committee received testimony on **Bill No. 31-0158** from Delita Francis, a Gold Star Mother, Sandra Benjamin, Support Coordinator for Survivor Outreach Services and Patrick Farrell, State Director of the V.I. Office of Veterans Affairs. Testimonies were followed by a round of questioning by all Senator present. Senator Tregenza Roach made a motion to vote favorably upon the bill and forward to the Committee on Rules and Judiciary. The motion was properly moved, seconded and voted upon. With four ‘yea’ majority votes, the bill passed. Testifiers were thanked for their participation and excused.

ACTION TAKEN ON BILL NO. 31-0158: PASSED

VOTE ON MOTION TO VOTE FAVORABLY ON AND FORWARD TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JUDICIARY BILL NO. 31-0158:

YEA: Senator Myron Jackson, Senator Tregenza Roach, Senator Sammuell Sanes, and Senator Justin Harrigan, Sr., Chairman (4)

ABSENT: Senator Neville James, President, Senator Terrence Nelson and Senator Janette Millin Young (3)

Lastly, testimony on **Bill No. 31-0129** from Commissioner Randolph Bennett, V.I. Property and Procurement was received by the Committee. Testimony was followed by questioning by all Senators present. Senator Sammuell Sanes made a motion to amend the bill with Amendment No. 31-663. Senator Myron Jackson made a motion to amend Amendment No. 31-663 with verbal amendment to change “five” to “two”. Senator Terrence Nelson objected to the amendment to Amendment No. 31-663. Chairman Justin Harrigan, Sr. allowed two minutes each for debate time. After a roll call, amendment to Amendment No. 31-663 passed with four ‘yea’ votes. Clerk then conducted a roll call on Amendment No. 31-663. With four ‘yea’ votes, the amendment as amended passed. Senator Sammuell Sanes made another motion to amend the bill with Amendment No. 31-664. With no objections, Amendment No. 31-664 was so ordered. In addition, Senator Sammuell Sanes made a motion to vote favorably upon the bill and forward to the Committee on Rules and Judiciary. The motion was properly moved, seconded and voted upon. With five ‘yea’ majority votes, the bill as amended passed. Testifier was thanked for his participation and excused.

ACTION TAKEN ON BILL NO. 31-0129: PASSED (AS AMENDED)

VOTE ON MOTION TO AMEND AMENDMENT NO. 31-663 TO BILL NO. 31-0129:

YEA: Senator Myron Jackson, Senator Tregenza Roach, Senator Sammuell Sanes, and Senator Justin Harrigan, Sr., Chairman (4)

ABSENT: Senator Neville James, President and Senator Janette Millin Young (2)

NOT VOTING: Senator Terrence Nelson (1)

VOTE ON MOTION TO AMEND BILL NO. 31-0129 WITH AMENDMENT NO. 31-663:

YEA: Senator Myron Jackson, Senator Tregenza Roach, Senator Sammuell Sanes, and Senator Justin Harrigan, Sr., Chairman (4)

ABSENT: Senator Neville James, President and Senator Janette Millin Young (2)

NOT VOTING: Senator Terrence Nelson (1)

VOTE ON MOTION TO AMEND BILL NO. 31-0129 WITH AMENDMENT NO. 31-664:

SO ORDERED

VOTE ON MOTION TO VOTE FAVORABLY ON AND FORWARD TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JUDICIARY BILL NO. 31-0129:

YEA: Senator Myron Jackson, Senator Terrence Nelson, Senator Tregenza Roach, Senator Sammuell Sanes, and Senator Justin Harrigan, Sr., Chairman (5)

ABSENT: Senator Neville James, President and Senator Janette Millin Young (2)

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

All testimonies and relevant meeting documents are available on the 31st Legislature Committees drive (U:).