



COMMITTEE REPORT

Meeting
 Wednesday, November 18, 2015
 9:20 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
 Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room
 St. Croix, VI

PURPOSE: To receive testimony and consider the following bills:

Bill No. 31-0108 - An Act amending title 20 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 33, section 334 (c) pertaining to license plates *Proposed by Senator Sammuell Sanes*

Bill No. 31-0014 - An Act amending title 33 Virgin Islands Code, adding chapter 119 to re-establish the Office of the Virgin Islands Inspector General as a semiautonomous agency of the Government *Proposed by Senators Clifford F. Graham, Nereida Rivera-O'Reilly and Sammuell Sanes*

Bill No. 31-0178 - An Act amending title 23 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 9, section 605 to provide for the determination of occupant load factor for public buildings and the posting of signage indicating their occupant load factor *Proposed by Senator Justin Harrigan, Sr.*

Bill No. 31-0061 - An Act amending title 29 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 9 by amending section 506 (a) to increase the fees regulating billboards *Proposed by Senator Myron D. Jackson*

ROLL CALL FOR ATTENDANCE:

Committee Member	Present	Absent	Excused
Senator Myron Jackson, Vice Chair	1		
Senator Neville James, President	2		
Senator Terrence Nelson		1	Birthday Celebration for Mr. Winthrop Hector
Senator Tregenza Roach		2	Caribbean-Central American Action Conference
Senator Sammuell Sanes	3		
Senator Janette Millin Young		3	Caribbean-Central American Action Conference
Senator Justin Harrigan, Sr., Chair	4		
<u>TOTAL</u>	4	3	
Non-Committee Member			
Senator Nereida Rivera-O'Reilly	1		
Senator Clifford Graham	2		

Chairman Justin Harrigan, Sr. called the meeting to order and stated its purpose. The meeting proceeded with testimony on **Bill No. 31-0108** by Director Lawrence Olive of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. Director Olive supported the bill by stating that it would strengthen the existing law and clarify questions as to where a license plate should be attached to a vehicle. In addition, testimony was heard from the Virgin Islands Police Department’s Traffic Bureau Commander, Lt. Joseph Platt. Lt. Platt also, supported the bill for specifying where license plates should be on a vehicle and for other public safety concerns. Testimonies were followed by two rounds of questioning by all Senators present. Senator Samuel Sanes then made a motion to amend bill with Amendment No. 31-725. Senator Myron Jackson subsequently made motion to amend Amendment No. 31-725, with no objections the amendment as amended was so ordered. Following, 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 four ‘yea’ majority votes, the bill as amended passed. Testifiers were thanked for their participation and excused.

(Bill No. 31-0108 was later reconsidered after Senator Jackson’s amendment to Amendment 31-725 was reduced to writing as Amendment No. 31-747. With no objections, Amendment No. 31-747 to Bill No. 31-0108 was so ordered. With four ‘yea’ majority votes, the bill as amended passed.)

ACTION TAKEN ON BILL NO. 31-0108: PASSED (AS AMENDED)

VOTE ON MOTION TO AMEND BILL NO. 31-0108 WITH AMENDMENT NO. 31-725: SO ORDERED

VOTE ON MOTION TO AMEND BILL NO. 31-0108 WITH AMENDMENT NO. 31-747: SO ORDERED

VOTE ON MOTION TO VOTE FAVORABLY ON AND FORWARD TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JUDICIARY BILL NO. 31-0108:

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

Next, the Committee received testimony on **Bill No. 31-0014** from Inspector General Steven van Beverhoudt, Office of the Virgin Islands Inspector General. Mr. van Beverhoudt supported the bill with recommended amendments including inserting “Government” to identify specific funds and inserting “in its entirety” in reference to allotment of annual budget. Director Nellon Bowry of the Office of Management and Budget also testified on this bill. Mr. Bowry supported amendment to allot budget in its entirety and had concerns with the location of the Office of the

Inspector General within the three branches of government. Testimony was followed by two rounds of questioning by all Senators present. Testifiers were thanked for their participation and excused. Senator Samuel Sanes then made a motion to amend the bill with Amendment No. 31-674. With no objections, the amendment was so ordered. Senator Sanes made another motion to vote favorably upon the bill and forward to the Full Body for further consideration. The motion was properly moved, seconded and voted upon. With four ‘yea’ votes, the bill as amended passed.

ACTION TAKEN ON BILL NO. 31-0014: PASSED (AS AMENDED)

VOTE ON MOTION TO AMEND BILL NO. 31-0014 WITH AMENDMENT NO. 31-674: SO ORDERED

VOTE ON MOTION TO VOTE FAVORABLY ON AND FORWARD TO THE FULL BODY BILL NO. 31-0014:

Committee Member	Yea	Nay	Absent	Not Voting
Senator Myron Jackson, Vice Chair	1			
Senator Neville James, President	2			
Senator Terrence Nelson			1	
Senator Tregenza Roach			2	
Senator Samuel Sanes	3			
Senator Janette Millin Young			3	
Senator Justin Harrigan, Sr., Chair	4			
TOTAL	4	-	3	-

Later, the Committee received testimony on **Bill No. 31-0178** from Deputy Commissioner Laverne P. Bailey, Department of Property and Procurement. DPP supported the bill and stood ready to ensure the posting of maximum occupancy signage to their properties. Acting Director Clifford Joseph of the Virgin Islands Fire Service also testified on this bill. Director Joseph supported the bill with an amendment to change “90” days to “270” days due to high workload and limited manpower. Testimonies were followed by two rounds of questioning by all Senators present. Testifiers were thanked for their participation and excused. Senator Justin Harrigan, Sr. then made a motion to amend the bill with a technical amendment to strike “90” and insert “270”. With no objections, the amendment was so ordered. In addition, Harrigan 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 four ‘yea’ majority votes, the bill as amended passed.

ACTION TAKEN ON BILL NO. 31-0178: PASSED (AS AMENDED)

VOTE ON MOTION TO AMEND BILL NO. 31-0178 WITH VERBAL TECHNICAL AMENDMENT: SO ORDERED

VOTE ON MOTION TO VOTE FAVORABLY ON AND FORWARD TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JUDICIARY BILL NO. 31-0178:

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

(At this time, Bill No. 31-0108 was reconsidered by motion of Senator Jackson. See above for more details.)

Lastly, the Committee received testimony on **Bill No. 31-0061** from Commissioner Gustav James, Department of Public Works, who was accompanied by staff Natasha Guadeloupe and Miguel Quiñones. DPW was in support of some fee increases, but requested 30 days to work with other agencies including DPNR and VIPD to develop a more comprehensive signage plan. April Baynes, Manager of 340PM Media LLC, presented testimony in support of this bill. Baynes was accompanied by Rikki L. Baynes, co-owner of 340PM Media LLC. The Department of Planning and Natural Resources was represented by David Brewer, Senior Archaeologist of the V.I. State Historic Preservation Office who stated his division would monitor historical and archaeologically sensitive areas for large installations of billboards. DPNR Analyst, Leia LaPlace-Matthew stated that her department supported efforts in regulating billboards by increasing fees and decreasing time between permit renewals. Testimony was followed by two rounds of questioning by all Senators present. Testifiers were thanked for their participation and excused. Senator Neville James made a motion to hold the bill in Committee for 30 days pending receipt of pertinent documentation from the Department of Public Works and the Department of Planning and Natural Resources. The motion was properly moved, seconded and voted upon. With no objections, the motion was so ordered.

ACTION TAKEN ON BILL NO. 31-0061: HELD

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:).