



**36<sup>th</sup> Legislature of the Virgin Islands**  
**SENATE CALENDAR**  
**April 14, 2025 – April 25, 2025**

**MONDAY,**  
**APRIL 14, 2025**

**PRESIDENT: SENATOR MILTON E. POTTER**  
**VICE PRESIDENT: SENATOR KENNETH L. GITTENS**

**Regular Session**  
**10:00 A.M.**  
**Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall**

**REGULAR SESSION**

**Date:** Monday, April 14, 2025  
**Time:** 10:00 A.M.  
**Location:** Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall

**Call to Order:** Honorable Milton E. Potter  
Senate President, 36<sup>th</sup> Legislature

**Anthems:** National Anthem and Virgin Islands March

**Invocation:** Reverend Charles L. Brown, Jr.  
Chaplain

**Roll Call:** Honorable Avery L. Lewis  
Legislative Secretary

**Messages and/or Correspondences**

**CONSIDERATION OF FLOOR AGENDA:**

**CONSIDERATION OF NOMINATIONS**

**Dr. Safiya George**  
VI Government Hospital and Health Facilities Corporation,  
District Governing Board of St. Thomas/St. John

**Mr. Anthony Mardenborough, Jr.**  
Board of Career and Technical Education – St. Croix

**Mrs. Elizabeth Guadalupe-Perez**  
Virgin Islands Real Estate Appraisers Board

**Mrs. Trinity Granger-Austrie, EIT**  
University of the Virgin Islands Board of Trustees

### **CONSIDERATION OF BILLS**

- Bill No. [36-0028](#)** An Act approving the lease agreement between the Government of the Virgin Islands and Tropical Marine, Inc., for Parcel No. 37-1 Estate Nadir, No. 2 Red Hook Quarter, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands and a portion of unsurveyed Estate Nadir, No. 2. Red Hook Quarter, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands
- Bill No. [36-0038](#)** An act amending title 29 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 10, subchapter III, section 551, subsection (a) by increasing the limit for outstanding bonds for the Virgin Islands Port Authority from \$100 million to \$500 million
- Bill No. [36-0040](#)** An Act approving the lease agreement between the Government of the Virgin Islands and Charles M. Kim V.I. Foundation, Inc. d/b/a Virgin Islands Museum of Art, for a portion of Lot No. 48b Norre Gade, Kings Quarter, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands

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**TUESDAY,  
APRIL 15, 2025**

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**CHAIR: SENATOR NOVELLE E. FRANCIS, JR.  
VICE CHAIR: SENATOR MARVIN A. BLYDEN**

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**Committee on Budget, Appropriations  
and Finance**

**10:00 A.M.**

**Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room**

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The Committee on Budget, Appropriations and Finance will meet on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, 10:00 A.M. in the Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room on St. Croix to receive testimony on the following bills:

## BLOCK I

The Committee on Budget, Appropriations and Finance will receive an update on the operational accomplishments and needs of the Virgin Islands Diabetes Center of Excellence

### **Invited Testifier:**

**Ms. Julia Sheen, DrPH, MPH**, Executive Director, Virgin Islands Diabetes Center of Excellence

## BLOCK II

The Committee on Budget, Appropriations and Finance will receive testimony on the following lease agreement:

**Bill No. [36-0062](#)** An Act approving the lease agreement between the Government of the Virgin Islands, acting through the Commissioner of the Department of Property and Procurement, and the United States Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for a portion of the telecommunications tower located on Parcel R-22 of Tract I Estate Nazareth, No. 1 Red Hook Quarter, St. Thomas

### **Invited Testifiers:**

**Honorable Lisa Alejandro**, Commissioner, VI Department of Property and Procurement

**Mr. Vincent Richards**, Assistant Commissioner, VI Department of Property and Procurement

**Ms. Debbie Putney**, Real Property Contracting Officer, NOAA

## BLOCK III

**Bill No. [36-0008](#)** An Act amending title 33 Virgin Islands Code, subtitle 2, chapter 89, subchapter I, section 2494 requiring the Lieutenant Governor to offset a property owner's property tax liability against any amount of money that the Government of the Virgin Islands owes to the property owner

### **Invited Testifiers:**

**Mr. Brent Leerdam**, Tax Collector, Office of the Lieutenant Governor

**Bill No. [36-0032](#)** An Act amending title 33 Virgin Islands Code, subtitle 3, chapter 111, section 3080 by limiting the salary amount used to compute the service retirement annuity for the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor of the Virgin Islands

### **Invited Testifiers:**

**Cindy L. Richardson**, Director, Division of Personnel

**Bill No. [36-0042](#)** An Act amending title 33 Virgin Islands Code subtitle 3, chapter 118, section 3411 to increase the maximum judgement amount for the award of damages against the Government of the Virgin Islands

**Invited Testifiers:**

**Mr. Troy deChabert-Schuster**, Director, AARP

**Dr. Mark Wenner**, Economist

**Dr. Gwen-Marie Moolenaar**, President, VI League of Women Voters

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**WEDNESDAY,  
APRIL 16, 2025**

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**CHAIR: SENATOR HUBERT L. FREDERICK  
VICE CHAIR: SENATOR ANGEL L. BOLQUES, JR.**

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**Committee on Economic Development  
and Agriculture**

**10:00 A.M.**

**Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room**

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The Committee on Economic Development and Agriculture has scheduled a meeting for Wednesday, April 16, 2025, at 10:00 AM in the Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room on St. Croix, Virgin Islands to provide updates on the following:

**BLOCK I**

State of Agriculture in the Virgin Islands

The Department of Agriculture and key stakeholders will provide a comprehensive update on the state of agriculture in the Virgin Islands, including challenges faced by local farmers, ongoing initiatives to support agricultural production, food security efforts, and the availability of land, water, and financial resources. The discussion will also address workforce development within the agricultural sector, initiatives designed to strengthen local food production, the expansion of farm-to-table programs, sustainability initiatives, and opportunities for collaboration between government agencies and private stakeholders.

**Invited Testifiers:****Honorable Dr. Louis E. Petersen, Jr.**, Commissioner, Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture**Dr. Nate Olive**, President, Virgin Islands Farmers Alliance**Mr. Dale Brown**, Co-Owner, Sejah Farms**Mrs. Yvette Brown**, Co-Owner, Sejah Farms**Mrs. Sommer Sibilly-Brown**, Executive Director, VI Good Food Coalition**Mr. Elridge Thomas**, Member, We Grow Food, Inc.**LUNCH BREAK****BLOCK II**

Discussion on Bill No. 36-0063 – Clarification of Gross Receipts Tax Obligations for Contractors

The Committee will receive testimony on:

**Bill No. [36-0063](#)** An Act amending title 33, Virgin Islands Code subtitle 1, chapter 3, sections 41, 42(a), and 43(a) and (c) to clarify that gross receipts taxes must be paid by all contractors doing business in the Virgin Islands regardless of physical location

This discussion aims to examine the implications of this legislation on tax compliance, enforcement mechanisms, and the potential economic impact on both local and external contractors. Testifiers will provide insights into the legal framework, administrative considerations, and anticipated outcomes.

**Invited Testifiers:****Honorable Kevin G. McCurdy**, Commissioner, Department of Finance**Mr. Julio Rhymer, Sr.**, Director, Office of Management and Budget**Mr. Joel Lee**, Director, V.I. Bureau of Internal Revenue**BLOCK III**

Discussion on Bill No. 36-0019 – Prohibiting Credit and Debit Card Surcharges

The Committee will receive testimony on

**Bill No. [36-0019](#)** An Act amending title 12A, Virgin Islands Code, Chapter 2, Subchapter I, Section 101 to prohibit the imposition of a surcharge for the use of a credit card or debit card.

The discussion will examine the potential impact of this legislation on businesses, consumers, and financial institutions. Testifiers will provide perspectives on legal considerations, consumer protection, and economic implications.

**Invited Testifiers:**

**Ms. Glendina P. Matthew, Esq.**, Director, Division of Banking, Insurance, and Financial Regulation,  
Office of the Lieutenant Governor

**Ian Clement**, Deputy Attorney General, Virgin Islands Department of Justice

**Horace Graham**, Assistant Commissioner, Department of Licensing & Consumer Affairs

**Mr. John P. Woods**, President, St. Thomas-St. John Chamber of Commerce

**Mr. Akeel St. Jean, Esq.**, Chairman of the Board, St. Croix Chamber of Commerce

**THURSDAY,  
APRIL 17, 2025**

**HOLY THURSDAY**

**Holiday**

**FRIDAY,  
APRIL 18, 2025**

**GOOD FRIDAY**

**Holiday**

**MONDAY,  
APRIL 21, 2025**

**EASTER MONDAY**

**Holiday**

**TUESDAY,  
APRIL 22, 2025**

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**CHAIR: SENATOR RAY FONSECA  
VICE CHAIR: SENATOR HUBERT L. FREDERICK**

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**Committee on Health,  
Hospitals and Human Services  
10:00 A.M.  
Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall**

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The Committee on Health, Hospitals & Human Services will be conducting a meeting on **Tuesday, April 22, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., in the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall, on St. Thomas.**

**BLOCK I**

**10:00 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.**

**Bill No. [36-0035](#)** An Act amending title 15 Virgin Islands Code, article V to allow the Government of the Virgin Islands to implement the federal mandate of the Stephen J. Beck, Jr., Achieving Better Life Experiences, which provides for the establishment of savings accounts for persons with disabilities

**Invited Testifiers:**

**Honorable Kevin McCurdy**, Commissioner Department of Finance  
**Hinda Carbon**, Executive Director, Virgin Islands Bar  
**Mr. Angus Drigo**, Executive Director, Disability Rights Center of the Virgin Islands  
**Mr. Christopher Finch**, Former Chairman, Virgin Islands Government Health and Hospitals Corporation  
**Mr. Julien Henley, Sr.**, ADA Coordinator, Office of the Governor  
**Mr. Troy Schuster**, Virgin Islands State Director, American Association of Retired Persons

**BLOCK II**

**11:40 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.**

**Bill No. [36-0021](#)** An Act amending title 19 Virgin Islands Code, part III, chapter 29, subchapter I relating to opioids and requiring that a practitioner discuss certain information with a patient when prescribing opioids

**Invited Testifiers:**

**Honorable Justa Encarnacion**, Commissioner, Department of Health  
**Honorable Gordon C. Rhea**, Attorney General, Department of Justice  
**Mr. Frank Odum, MD**, Chairman, Virgin Islands Medical Examiners

**BLOCK III****1:45 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.**

The members of the committee will receive an overview and mitigation plan from the Department of Health relative to the following diseases in the territory; Hand Foot and Mouth, Measles, Covid, and Flu.

**Invited Testifier:**

**Honorable Justa Encarnacion**, Commissioner, Department of Health

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**WEDNESDAY,  
APRIL 23, 2025**

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**CHAIR: SENATOR MARVIN A. BLYDEN**

**VICE CHAIR: SENATOR CLIFFORD A. JOSEPH, SR.**

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**Committee on Housing, Transportation  
and Telecommunications**

**9:00 A.M.**

**Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall**

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The Committee on Housing, Transportation and Telecommunications will meet on **Wednesday, April 23, 2025, at 9:00 a.m., in the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall, on St. Thomas** to discuss the following:

Update and discussion on the current status of infrastructure projects and future development plans, with an emphasis on the strategic use of federal broadband funding. Topics include challenges in coordinating between telecommunications providers and government agencies—particularly around permitting, access to utility poles, conduits, and related infrastructure. Additional issues include inter-provider challenges, such as the portability of telephone numbers.

For public sector organizations, the discussion will address the status of efforts around interoperability, cybersecurity, and the management and upkeep of government websites and digital portals used for conducting official business and communicating with the public.



**Invited Testifiers****Honorable Derek Gabriel**, Commissioner, Department of Public Works**Ravindra Maywahlall**, Country Manager, Liberty, USVI**Karl Knight**, Chief Executive Officer, Virgin Islands Water & Power Authority**Attorney Ileann Canellas**, Managing Corporate Counsel, T-Mobile, Puerto Rico**Stephan Adams**, Chief Executive Officer, Virgin Islands Next Generation Network**Geraldine Pitt**, Chief Executive Officer, Viya**Julio Rhymer**, Director, Office of Management and Budget**Rupert Ross**, Director, Bureau of Information Technology

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**THURSDAY,**  
**APRIL 24, 2025**

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**CHAIR: SENATOR CARLA J. JOSEPH**  
**VICE CHAIR: SENATOR KENNETH L. GITENS**

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**Committee on Rules and Judiciary****10:00 A.M.****Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room**

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**FRIDAY,**  
**APRIL 25, 2025**

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**CONSTITUENT MEETINGS AND OFFICE WORK**

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**Reserved**

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