



**35<sup>th</sup> Legislature of the Virgin Islands**  
**REVISED SENATE CALENDAR**  
**August 05, 2024 – August 16, 2024**

**MONDAY,**  
**AUGUST 05, 2024**

**CONSTITUENT MEETINGS AND OFFICE WORK**

**Reserved**

**TUESDAY,**  
**AUGUST 06, 2024**

**CONSTITUENT MEETINGS AND OFFICE WORK**

**Reserved**

**WEDNESDAY,**  
**AUGUST 07, 2024**

**CONSTITUENT MEETINGS AND OFFICE WORK**

**Reserved**

**THURSDAY,**  
**AUGUST 08, 2024**

**CONSTITUENT MEETINGS AND OFFICE WORK**

**Reserved**

**FRIDAY,  
AUGUST 09, 2024**

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**CONSTITUENT MEETINGS AND OFFICE WORK**

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**Reserved**

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**MONDAY,  
AUGUST 12, 2024**

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**OFFICE OF THE SENATE PRESIDENT**

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**Reserved**

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**TUESDAY,  
AUGUST 13, 2024**

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**CHAIR: SENATOR DONNA A. FRETT-GREGORY  
VICE CHAIR: SENATOR NOVELLE E. FRANCIS, JR.**

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**Committee on Budget,  
Appropriations and Finance  
10:00 A.M.  
Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall**

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The 35<sup>th</sup> Legislature's Committee on Budget, Appropriations and Finance has scheduled a hearing to receive testimony and discuss the budget of various departments and agencies at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 13, 2024 in the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall on St. Thomas.

10:00 A.M. Economic Development Authority  
Wayne Biggs, CEO

12:30 P.M. Department of Property and Procurement  
Honorable Lisa M. Alejandro, Commissioner

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WEDNESDAY,  
AUGUST 14, 2024

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**CHAIR: SENATOR KENNETH L. GITTENS**  
**VICE CHAIR: SENATOR RAY FONSECA**

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Committee on Homeland Security,  
Justice and Public Safety  
10:00 A.M.  
Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room

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Please be advised that the 35<sup>th</sup> Legislature's Committee on Homeland Security, Justice, & Public Safety has scheduled a legislative committee hearing for **10:00 am, Wednesday, August 14, 2024, in the Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room, located on St. Croix.**

The agenda is as follows:

**BLOCK I**

**10:00 A.M.**

**Bill No. [35-0031](#)** An Act amending title 5, V.I.C., subtitle 3, part I, by adding a new chapter 301A, creating the Child Victims' and Child Witnesses' Rights Act and repealing chapter 301, subchapter IV, section 3510.

**Department of Justice Operational Status Update:** This update intends to provide a comprehensive overview of the current operational status of the Department of Justice. Key highlights will include but not be limited to an update on caseloads, encompassing criminal, civil matters and white-collar crimes and on the construction of the new morgue on St. Croix.

**Invited Testifiers:**

**Gordon Rhea, Esq.**, Attorney General Nominee, Department of Justice  
**Honorable Averil George**, Commissioner, Department of Human Services  
**Dr. Clema Lewis**, Director, Women's Coalition of St. Croix  
**Darian Torrice-Hairston**, Director, Nana Baby Children's Home

**BLOCK II****1:30 P.M.**

**Bill No [35-0271](#)** An Act amending title 20 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 43, subchapter I by adding a section 494b establishing school speed zones, signage, and enforcement measures to promote student and pedestrian safety near schools.

Department of Public Works, Office of Highway Safety, and Traffic Investigation Bureau Operational Status Update: This update intends to provide an overview of the current operational status of the Department of Public Works and the VIPD's Office of Highway Safety and Traffic Investigation Bureau. The update will include, but not be limited to any ongoing projects, key initiatives aimed at enhancing roadway safety and infrastructure. Additionally, information on progress made in traffic investigations and plans for future improvements will be discussed.

**Invited Testifiers:**

**Honorable Derek Gabriel**, Commissioner, Department of Public Works  
**Honorable Dionne Wells-Hedrington, EdD.**, Commissioner, Department of Education  
**Mario Brooks**, Acting Commissioner, VI Police Department  
**Elise P. Menzies**, Principal, St. Croix Christian Academy

**THURSDAY,**  
**AUGUST 15, 2024**

**CHAIR: SENATOR MARISE C. JAMES**  
**VICE CHAIR: SENATOR DONNA A. FRETT-GREGORY**

**Committee on Education**  
**and Workforce Development**  
**10:00 A.M.**  
**Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall**

The Committee on Education and Workforce Development has scheduled a meeting for Thursday, August 15, 2024 at 10:00 am in the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall to discuss the following items.

## **BLOCK I**

**Bill No. [35-0252](#)** An Act amending title 17 Virgin Islands Code by adding a chapter 44A, relating to the establishment of the Virgin Islands High School Graduation Plan Act, to assist students to graduate from high school and successfully transition to post-secondary education, to the workforce, or to the military

### **Invited Testifiers:**

**Honorable Dr. Dionne Wells-Hedrington**, Commissioner, Virgin Islands Department of Education  
**Honorable Justa “Tita” Encarnacion**, Commissioner, Department of Health  
**Honorable Averil George**, Commissioner, Virgin Islands Department of Human Services  
**Honorable Gary Molloy**, Commissioner, Virgin Islands Department of Labor  
**Dr. Kyza A. Callwood**, Chairman, Virgin Islands Board of Education  
**Angus Drigo**, Executive Director, Disability Rights Center of the Virgin Islands  
**Dwayne Alexander**, Executive Director, Virgin Islands Housing Authority

**Bill No. [35-0270](#)** An Act amending title 17 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 9, subchapter I, requiring the Commissioner of the Virgin Islands Department of Education to establish, maintain, and administer a school suspension program for students who are suspended from a public school for three or more school days

### **Invited Testifiers:**

**Honorable Dr. Dionne Wells-Hedrington**, Commissioner, Virgin Islands Department of Education  
**Honorable Justa “Tita” Encarnacion**, Commissioner, Department of Health  
**Dr. Kyza A. Callwood**, Chairman, Virgin Islands Board of Education  
**Angus Drigo**, Executive Director, Disability Rights Center of the Virgin Islands

## **BLOCK II**

Testifiers will provide information on the annual Educational Assistance provided to the Department of Education by EDC beneficiaries from 2020-2024; specifically, the process for the collection and transfer of funds to the Department of Education; the number of beneficiaries currently providing educational assistance, the total amount of money provided annually to the Department of Education for public school programs and initiatives, reports required to be generated to assess the success of the required assistance; and whether the legislation needs to be amended.

### **Invited Testifiers:**

**Honorable Dr. Dionne Wells-Hedrington**, Commissioner, Virgin Islands Department of Education

**Wayne Biggs**, CEO, Virgin Islands Economic Development Authority

## **BLOCK III**

The Committee will receive a status update from the Virgin Islands Department of the Education on the success of the summer enrichment programs, the current status of school facilities and assessment of overall school readiness including but not limited to data on teacher vacancies and recruitment efforts to fill positions, data on student enrollment, information on assignment and reassignment of principals, and the status and use of the federal funds that must be spent by September 30, 2024. The Committee will hear from the newly hired Executive Director of the Bureau of School Construction and Maintenance about his plans and goals for the territorial schools. Finally, the Board of Education and St. Croix Public School Parent Coalition will present testimony on their respective priorities for the 2024-2025 school year and any concerns that the Board and the Coalition have as the new school year begins.

### **Invited Testifiers:**

**Honorable Dr. Dionne Wells-Hedrington**, Commissioner, Virgin Islands Department of Education

**Craig Benjamin**, Executive Director, Bureau of School Construction and Maintenance

**Dr. Kyza A. Callwood**, Chairman, Virgin Islands Board of Education

**Abdul Ali**, Chairman, St. Croix Public School Parent Coalition

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**FRIDAY,  
AUGUST 16, 2024**

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**CHAIR: SENATOR DONNA A. FRETT-GREGORY  
VICE CHAIR: SENATOR NOVELLE E. FRANCIS, JR.**

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**Committee on Budget,  
Appropriations and Finance  
10:00 A.M.  
Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall**

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**10:00 A.M.            Virgin Islands Department of Justice  
Gordon Rhea, Attorney General Nominee**

**12:30 P.M.            Bills**

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