



35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands
REVISED SENATE CALENDAR
December 04, 2023 – December 15, 2023

MONDAY,
DECEMBER 04, 2023

CONSTITUENT MEETINGS AND OFFICE WORK

Reserved

TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 05, 2023

CONSTITUENT MEETINGS AND OFFICE WORK

Reserved

WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 06, 2023

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

**Committee on Health, Hospitals
and Human Services**
9:30 A.M.
Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall

Please be advised that the Committee on Health, Hospitals & Human Services will be conducting a meeting on Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. in the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall St. Thomas.

BLOCK I

9:30 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.

Bill No. [35-0187](#)

An Act amending title 19, part V, chapter 45, by adding subchapter XI, titled Extreme Risk Protection Orders, to allow a family or household member, law enforcement officer, healthcare worker, educator or co-worker to intervene and file a court petition to temporarily confiscate and ban a person's access to guns for one year if that person is deemed to be a risk to themselves or others,

Invited Testifiers:

Honorable Ariel Smith, Esq., Attorney General
Honorable Ray Martinez, Commissioner, Virgin Islands Police Department
Mr. Sean Santos, Chief of Police, Virgin Islands Police Department,
Mr. Steven Phillip, Chief of Police, Virgin Islands Police Department
Honorable Justa E. Encarnacion, Commissioner, Department of Health
Honorable Dionne Wells-Hedrington, Commissioner, Department of Education
Averil George, Commissioner Nominee, Department of Human Services

LUNCH **12:05 P.M. – 1:00 P.M.**

BLOCK II **1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.**

Bill No. [35-0173](#) An Act amending title 5 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 201, by adding a subchapter V enacting the Safe Haven Newborn Protection Act to provide a mechanism for a newborn infant to be relinquished to a safe environment, for the parents of the newborn infant to remain anonymous if they choose and avoid civil or criminal liability for the act of relinquishing the newborn infant

Invited Testifiers:

Averil George, Commissioner Nominee, Department of Human Services
Ms. Carla E. Benjamin, ME. ED. MSW, CSW, CPM, Assistant Commissioner, Department of Human Services
Mr. Douglas Koch, Chief Executive Officer, Juan F. Louis Hospital
Ms. Tina Comissiong, Esq., MPA, Chief Executive Officer, Schneider Regional Medical Center
Mr. Sydney Elskoe, Assistant Commissioner, Virgin Islands Police Department
Mr. Antonio Stevens, Acting Director, V.I. Fire and Emergency Medical Service
Mr. Robert Bryan NRP, EMS Chief, V.I. Fire and Medical Emergency Medical Services
Mr. Victor Adams, EMS Chief, V.I. Fire and Medical Emergency Medical Services
Ms. Leah Kipley, Assistant Director, National Safe Haven Alliance
Ms. Heather Burner, Rn, BSN, Executive Director, National Safe Haven Alliance
Ms. Anya Stuart, Executive Director, Family Resource Center

BLOCK III **3:05 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.**

The Committee will receive testimony on all past, current, and future mitigation efforts, health effects, and potential risks to the community as it relates to the fire on the Bovoni landfill, on St. Thomas.

Invited Testifiers:

Honorable Justa E. Encarnacion, Commissioner, Department of Health
Honorable Jean-Pierre L. Oriol, Commissioner, Department of Planning & Natural Resources
Mr. Daryl D. Jaschen, Director, Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency
Mr. Roger E. Merritt, Jr., Executive Director, Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority
Mr. Antonio Stevens, Acting Director, V.I. Fire and Emergency Medical Service
Honorable Dionne Wells-Hedrington, Commissioner, Department of Education

**THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 07, 2023**

**CHAIR: SENATOR DIANE T. CAPEHART
VICE CHAIR: SENATOR MILTON E. POTTER**

**Committee on Rules and Judiciary
9:00 A.M.
Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room**

The Committee on Rules and Judiciary has scheduled a meeting for Thursday, December 7, 2023, at 9:00 AM in the Frits E. Lawaetz Conference Room, St. Croix, Virgin Islands to consider the following nominations and bills:

BLOCK I

Governor's Nomination of Harriett Nathalie Hodge
Commissioner Nominee, VI Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs

BLOCK II

Governor's Nomination of Louis E. Petersen, Jr.
Commissioner Nominee, VI Department of Agriculture

BLOCK III

Governor's Nomination of Kevin McCurdy,
Commissioner Nominee, VI Department of Finance

BLOCK IV

Governor's Nomination of Bert M. Petersen, Jr., M.D.
University of the Virgin Islands Board of Trustees

Governor's Nomination of Donna M. Christensen, MD
University of the Virgin Islands Board of Trustees

BLOCK V – Bills

Bill No. [35-0045](#) An Act amending title 5 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 407 relating to eligibility for parole release by adding section 4607 to establish Medical Parole Release, Geriatric Parole Release, and Non-Medical Geriatric Parole Release, and for other related purposes .

- Bill No. [35-0084](#)** An Act amending title 11, Virgin Islands Code, chapter 21, section 1213 to allow businesses operating under a trade name to have the option of renewing the trade name every 2, 6, or 10 years intervals.
- Bill No. [35-0086](#)** An Act amending Title 3, V.I.C., chapter 1, section 10h to require background checks for all IT personnel and employees of the Bureau of Information Technology, agencies that have data centers, and any employee who handles confidential information.
- Bill No. [35-0099](#)** An Act amending title 28, chapter 23, of the Virgin Islands Code relating to the foreclosure of Liens Upon Real Property.
- Bill No. [35-0119](#)** An Act amending title 19 Virgin Islands Code by adding a chapter 7A directing the Department of Health to develop and approve Mobile Integrated Healthcare Programs.
- Bill No. [35-0127](#)** An Act amending title 14 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 89 relating to the invasion of privacy of accident and crime victims by first responders.
- Bill No. [35-0131](#)** An Act amending title 3 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 15 to establish a “Real Time Crime Center” Centralized Crime Data System, within the Virgin Islands Police Department.
- Bill No. [35-0173](#)** An Act amending title 5 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 201, by adding a subchapter V enacting the Safe Haven Newborn Protection Act to provide a mechanism for a newborn infant to be relinquished to a safe environment, for the parents of the newborn infant to remain anonymous if they choose and avoid civil or criminal liability for the act of relinquishing the newborn infant
- Bill No. [35-0175](#)** An Act amending Title 23 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 11, relating to emergency communications during an emergency and major disasters by adding a subchapter II establishing an Auxiliary Communications Unit within the Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency and providing an auxiliary communications resource to any department agency and autonomous or semiautonomous instrumentality of the Government of the Virgin Islands
- Bill No. [35-0194](#)** An Act amending title 17 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 10, section 111(a) requiring the Commissioner of Education to hire a School Nurse Supervisor per district and School Health Technicians for every public school in the Territory.

BLOCK VI**RESOLUTIONS**

- Bill No. [35-0102](#) An Act honoring and commending Ralph A. deChabert, M.D. for outstanding contributions in the medical field to the people of the Virgin Islands and his many civic contributions to the community, especially to the island of St. Croix and to name the Labor and Delivery/Post Partum Unit “Maternity Services” at the Juan F. Luis Hospital and Medical Center North in his honor.
- Bill No. [35-0109](#) An Act honoring and commending the late Corporal Kendall Emanuel George posthumously for his service as a Corporal in the United States Marine Corps in the Vietnam War and for making the ultimate sacrifice to preserve democracy and to keep America and his Virgin Islands homeland safe; naming Route 107 from Coral Bay to Lameshur Bay, St. John “Kendall Emanuel George Drive” South and appropriating \$10,000 to the Department of Public Works for signage at Kendall Emanuel George Drive; and for other related purposes.
- Bill No. [35-0123](#) An Act to commission and direct the Virgin Islands Council on the Arts to construct and erect a bronze bust of Dr. Alfred O. Heath to be placed next to those of Edith L. Williams, J. Antonio Jarvis, and Rothschild Francis in Education Park on the island of St. Thomas, and for other purposes.
- Bill No. [35-0125](#) An Act honoring and commending the late Police Lieutenant Melbourne Clarke posthumously for his dedication, service, and contributions to the Virgin Islands community in law enforcement by adding the name, “Police Lieutenant Melbourne Clarke Drive”, at Route 669 on the island of St. Croix.

CANCELLED

**FRIDAY,
DECEMBER 08, 2023**

**CHAIR: SENATOR DIANE T. CAPEHART
VICE CHAIR: SENATOR MILTON E. POTTER**

**Committee on Rules and Judiciary
9:00 A.M.
Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room**

The Committee on Rules and Judiciary has scheduled a meeting for Friday, December 8, 2023, at 9:00 AM in the Frits E. Lawaetz Conference Room, St. Croix, Virgin Islands to consider the following resolutions

BLOCK I

Bill No. [35-0027](#) An Act honoring and commending Mr. Myron Corbett posthumously for his many contributions to the youth of the territory; renaming the basketball court located in Anna's Retreat, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands as "The Myron Corbett Basketball Court"; making an appropriation to erect signage at the basketball court; and for other related purposes.

Bill No. [35-0102](#) An Act honoring and commending Ralph A. deChabert, M.D. for outstanding contributions in the medical field to the people of the Virgin Islands and his many civic contributions to the community, especially to the island of St. Croix and to name the Labor and Delivery/Post Partum Unit "Maternity Services" at the Juan F. Luis Hospital and Medical Center North in his honor

Bill No. [35-0123](#) An Act to commission and direct the Virgin Islands Council on the Arts to construct and erect a bronze bust of Dr. Alfred O. Heath to be placed next to those of Edith L. Williams, J. Antonio Jarvis, and Rothschild Francis in Education Park on the island of St. Thomas, and for other purposes

BLOCK II – Tentative

Bill No. [35-0109](#) An Act honoring and commending the late Corporal Kendall Emanuel George posthumously for his service as a Corporal in the United States Marine Corps in the Vietnam War and for making the ultimate sacrifice to preserve democracy and to keep America and his Virgin Islands homeland safe; naming Route 107 from Coral Bay to Lameshur Bay, St. John "Kendall Emanuel George Drive" South and appropriating \$10,000 to the Department of Public Works for signage at Kendall Emanuel George Drive; and for other related purposes.

Bill No. [35-0125](#) An Act honoring and commending the late Police Lieutenant Melbourne Clarke posthumously for his dedication, service, and contributions to the Virgin Islands community in law enforcement by adding the name, "Police Lieutenant Melbourne Clarke Drive", at Route 669 on the island of St. Croix.

**MONDAY,
DECEMBER 11, 2023**

CONSTITUENT MEETINGS AND OFFICE WORK

Reserved

**TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 12, 2023**

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

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

Please be advised that the 35th Legislature's Committee on Homeland Security, Justice, & Public Safety has scheduled a legislative committee hearing for 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, December 12, 2023 in the Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Hall on St. Croix. This is an in-person hearing.

BLOCK I

10:00 a.m.

Crucian Christmas Festival Safety/Security Update - This update intends to provide an overview of safety and security efforts ahead of this year's Crucian Christmas Festival events. Information provided will relate to security, parking restrictions and accommodations, and other related matters.

Invited Testifiers:

The Honorable Ray Martinez, Commissioner, Virgin Islands Police Department

The Honorable Derek Gabriel, Commissioner, Department of Public Works

Mr. Ian Turnbull, Director, Department of Tourism (Festivals)

BLOCK II

1:00 p.m.

Bill 35-0178 – An Act amending title 5 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 314, to add a section 3732a to allow for the automatic expungement of arrest records upon a finding that the arrest lacked probable cause and amending title 3 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 33, section 881(g), item 9 relating to public records to designate expunged criminal records as confidential records.

Invited Testifiers:

The Honorable Ariel Smith, Attorney General, Virgin Islands Department of Justice

Attorney Julie Smith-Todman, Interim Chief, Office of the Territorial Public Defender

Attorney Dwyer Arce, President, Virgin Islands Bar Association

Attorney Casey Payton, Executive Director, Virgin Islands Justice Initiative

Attorney Russell B. Pate, Managing Partner, The Pate Law Firm

Bill 35-0179 – An Act amending title 14 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 61, relating to gambling violations, and title 32 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 13, relating to the Virgin Islands Lottery Commission, to strengthen the enforcement tools against illegal gambling and lottery.

Invited Testifiers:

Raymond Williams, Executive Director, Virgin Islands Lottery

Honorable Ariel Smith, Attorney General, Virgin Islands Department of Justice

Attorney Julie Smith-Todman, Interim Chief, Office of the Territorial Public Defender

Attorney Dwyer Arce, President, Virgin Islands Bar Association

**WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 13, 2023**

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

Committee of the Whole

10:00 A.M.

Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room

The **Thirty-Fifth Legislature** will convene in a Committee of the Whole Hearing to receive testimony on the following CZM and zoning requests:

Bill No. [35-0199](#) An Act ratifying the Governor's approval of Minor Coastal Zone Permit No. CZX-22-22W issued to Joel Ureta for the use and occupancy of submerged lands seaward of Heathen Cove, Chenay Bay, St. Croix, Virgin Islands and for the installation of a recreational buoy with a mooring

Invited Testifiers:

The Honorable Jean-Pierre L. Oriol, Commissioner, VI Department of Planning and Natural Resources

Marlon Hibbert, Director of the Division of Coastal Zone Management, VI Department of Planning and Natural Resources

Joel Ureta, Applicant

BR23-0885 An Act to rezone Plot Nos. 219 and 220 Estate Morning Star, Queen Quarter, St. Croix, from R-1 (Residential-Low Density) to B-3 (Business-Scattered) to use as an event space with associated business activity

Invited Testifiers:

The Honorable Jean-Pierre L. Oriol, Commissioner, VI Department of Planning and Natural Resources
Leia LaPlace-Matthew, Territorial Planner, VI Department of Planning and Natural Resources
Positive T. A. Nelson, Applicant
Patricia Evans, Resident

BR23-0886 An Act to rezone Remainder Plot No. 246 Estate Glynn, Queen Quarter, St. Croix from A-2 (Agricultural Zone) to R-4 (Residential-Medium Density) for the addition of a 14-unit guesthouse for long and short-term rentals

Invited Testifiers:

The Honorable Jean-Pierre L. Oriol, Commissioner, VI Department of Planning and Natural Resources
Leia LaPlace-Matthew, Territorial Planner, VI Department of Planning and Natural Resources
Shekema George, Applicant

**THURSDAY,
 DECEMBER 14, 2023**

CONSTITUENT MEETINGS AND OFFICE WORK

Reserved

CANCELLED

**FRIDAY,
 DECEMBER 15, 2023**

**CHAIR: SENATOR ANGEL L. BOLQUES, JR.
 VICE CHAIR: SENATOR MARVIN A. BLYDEN**

**Committee on Culture, Youth, Aging,
 Sports, and Parks**

10:00 A.M.

Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room