



35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands
SENATE CALENDAR
March 04, 2024 – March 15, 2024

MONDAY,
MARCH 04, 2024

CONSTITUENT MEETINGS AND OFFICE WORK

Reserved

TUESDAY,
MARCH 05, 2024

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

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

The 35th Legislature's Committee on Budget, Appropriations and Finance will meet on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. in the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands.

BLOCK I

The Committee will receive testimony from the West Indian Company Limited on the following:

- Financial overview of the West Indian Company Limited for FY 2023 and FY 2024.
- Status of the outstanding amount owed to the central government on the payment in lieu of taxes.
- Update on capital projects.

Invited Testifier:

Mr. Anthony Ottley, President & Chief Executive Officer, The West Indian Company Limited

BLOCK II

Bill No. [35-0196](#) An Act to amend title 3, Virgin Islands Code, sections 717(c) and 766(c) to establish a deadline for the GERS to resume the personal loan program, remove the \$10,000,000 annual aggregate amount and the 8% interest rate cap, limit the system's liability to \$75,000, and set a parameter in section 717 that all loans must be structured such that the payoff date occurs before the retiree reaches age 70.

Invited Testifiers:

Mr. Angel E. Dawson Jr., Administrator, Government Employees' Retirement System

Mr. Dwane Callwood, Sr., Board Chairman, GERS Governing Board

BLOCK III

Bill No. [35-0206](#) An act amending title 3 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 25, by adding subchapter IX(a) to enact The Virgin Islands Heroes Act to make benefits payable to the spouses and dependent children of law enforcement officers, peace officers, public safety officers, and public safety employees that are killed or catastrophically injured in the line of duty.

Invited Testifiers:

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

Honorable Ray Martinez, Commissioner, V.I. Police Department

Ms. Cindy Richardson, Director, V.I. Division of Personnel

Mr. Antonio Stevens, Acting Director, V.I. Fire and Emergency Management Services

**WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 06, 2024**

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

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

The Committee on Health, Hospitals & Human Services will be conducting a meeting on Wednesday, March 06, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. in the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall, St. Thomas.

BLOCK I**10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.****Bill No. [35-0224](#)**

An Act amending title 19, part V, chapter 45, subchapter VI to increase access to behavioral health services, with a focus on a Psychiatric Emergency Response Team to provide mobile crisis intervention services, and the 9-8-8 telecommunication system

BLOCK II**12:30 P.M. - 2:30 P.M.****Bill No. [35-0128](#)**

An Act amending title 27 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 4A relating to the practice of professional counseling to modify and update licensure requirements, and for other related purposes

Invited Testifiers:

Honorable H. Nathalie Hodge, Commissioner, Department of Licensing & Consumer Affairs

Dr. Vincentina Paul-Constantin, Chairwoman, V.I. Board of Licensed Counselors and Examiners

Mr. Curtis Callender, Secretary, V.I. Board of Licensed Counselors and Examiners

Dr. Aaron Norton, Executive Director, National Board of Forensics Evaluators, Inc.

Dr. Tom Black, Licensed Professional Counselor, Certified Psychologist and Forensic Evaluator

Dr. Brenden A. Hargett, Director of Ethics, National Board for Certified Counselors

**THURSDAY,
MARCH 07, 2024**

CONSTITUENT MEETINGS AND OFFICE WORK

Reserved

**FRIDAY,
MARCH 08, 2024**

CONSTITUENT MEETINGS AND OFFICE WORK

Reserved

**FRIDAY,
MARCH 08, 2024**

**CHAIR: SENATOR CARLA J. JOSEPH
VICE CHAIR: SENATOR JAVAN E. JAMES, SR.**

**Committee on Government Operations,
Veterans Affairs, and Consumer Protection
6:00 P.M.
TAXICAB INDUSTRY TOWN HALL MEETING
Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room**

The Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs, and Consumer Protection will host a town hall meeting on Friday, March 8, 2024, at 6:00 P.M. in the Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room.

- I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
 - II. CORRESPONDENCE
 - III. DISCUSSION ON STATUS ON TAXICAB RELATIONS
 - IV. SOLUTIONS TO ISSUES SURROUNDING RENDERING OF SERVICES BY THE TAXICAB COMMISSION
 - V. GOING FORWARD STEPS
 - VI. ANY OTHER BUSINESS
 - VII. ADJOURNMENT
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**MONDAY,
MARCH 11, 2024**

CONSTITUENT MEETINGS AND OFFICE WORK

Reserved

**TUESDAY,
MARCH 12, 2024**

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

**Committee on Homeland Security,
Justice, and Public Safety
10:00 A.M.
Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall**

**WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 13, 2024**

**CHAIR: SENATOR JAVAN E. JAMES, SR.
VICE CHAIR: SENATOR ANGEL L. BOLQUES, JR.**

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

The Committee on Economic Development and Agriculture has scheduled a meeting for **Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall** on the island of St. Thomas. The Committee will receive testimonies concerning Bill No. 35-0232 and status updates from Governmental Agencies: The Virgin Islands Cannabis Advisory Board, the Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture, and the Virgin Islands Port Authority.

BLOCK I**10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.**

Bill No. [35-0232](#) An Act amending title 3 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 19, section 339a relating to the Division of Festivals by eliminating the assistant directors, increasing the number of directors from one to three, and requiring each director to submit a financial report to the Chairperson of the Committee on Budget, Appropriations, and Finance of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands.

Invited Testifiers:

Honorable Joseph Boschulte, Commissioner, Virgin Islands Department of Tourism
Mr. Ian Turnbull, Director, Division of Festivals, Virgin Islands Department of Tourism
Mr. Halvor Hart, Assistant Director, St. Thomas Carnival, Virgin Islands Department of Tourism
Ms. Leona Smith, Assistant Director, St. John Celebration, Virgin Islands Department of Tourism
Mr. Shamari Haynes, Assistant Director, St. Croix Festival, Virgin Islands Department of Tourism
Honorable Janelle K. Sarauw, Former Senator
Mr. Dean Baptiste (Mean Dean), St. Croix Resident (Entertainer/Band Member)
Ms. Rena Francis, St. Croix Resident, Booth Owner
Mrs. Jacqueline E. Thomas-Eastman, St. Croix Resident, Booth Owner
Mr. Edwin Thomas, St. Croix Resident, Booth Owner
Mr. Samuel Ferdinand, St. Croix Resident, Entertainer (Calypsonian)

RECESS**12:00 P.M. – 12:30 P.M.**

The Committee will receive an update on the overall status of the USVI Office of Cannabis Regulations, including the implementation of Act 8680 and licensing procedures for the cannabis industry.

Invited Testifiers:

Dr. Catherine Kean, Chairperson of the Cannabis Advisory Board, Virgin Islands Cannabis Advisory Board
Honorable H. Nathalie Hodge, Commissioner, Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs
Mr. Horace Graham, Assistant Commissioner, Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs
Ms. Lorraine Fredericks, Director of Business and Administration, Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs

BLOCK III**2:30 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.**

The Committee will receive an update on the overall status of the Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture.

Invited Testifier:

Honorable Dr. Louis Petersen, Commissioner, Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture

BLOCK IV**4:30 P.M. – 6:30 P.M.**

The Committee will receive an overall status from the Virgin Islands Port Authority.

Invited Testifier:

Mr. Carlton Dowe, Executive Director, Virgin Islands Port Authority

**THURSDAY,
MARCH 14, 2024**

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

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

The Committee on Rules and Judiciary has scheduled a meeting for **Thursday, March 14, 2024, at 9:30 AM** in the **Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room, St. Croix, Virgin Islands** to consider the following **nominations, leases, and bills:**

BLOCK I**Governor's Nomination of Dr. Nathaniel Olive**

Non-Agricultural Interest Nominee, Virgin Islands Conservation District – District of St. Croix

Governor's Nomination of Judy Grogan

Land Occupier Nominee, Virgin Islands Conservation District – District of St. Thomas

Governor's Nomination of Carlos Robles

Land Occupier Nominee, Virgin Islands Conservation District – District of St. Thomas

BLOCK II

- Bill No. [35-0077](#)** An Act approving the lease agreement between the Government of the Virgin Islands, acting through its Commissioner of the Department of Property and Procurement and St. Thomas Rescue, Inc., Parcel No. 146 Revised Submarine Base No. 6, Southwest Quarter, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, consisting of a one-story building, on approximately 0.1899 U.S. acres of improved land more-or-less, zoned P, for the purpose of operating a long-term headquarters for all rescue related activities of the Lessee, and for other related purposes
- Bill No. [35-0211](#)** An Act approving the Lease Agreement between the Government of the Virgin Islands, acting through its Commissioner of the Department of Property and Procurement, and James O. Gaston for Plot No. 9-G VICORP Lands, Prince Quarter, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, consisting of approximately 653, 400 U.S. sq. ft. or 15 U.S. acres of unimproved land, more or less, as shown on Drawing No. A9-5-C008 to be used for crop production and rearing small livestock
- Bill No. [35-0225](#)** An Act approving the multi-year lease agreement between the Government of the Virgin Islands, acting through its Commissioner of the Department of Property and Procurement, and Virgin Islands Centre for Architecture, Crafts, and Build Heritage, St. Croix, Inc. d/b/a Virgin Islands Architecture Center for Built Heritage and Crafts, for Plot No. 8 Church Street and Plots No. 21, 22, and 23 Hospital Street, Christiansted Town, Company Quarter, St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, consisting of two, two-story masonry buildings to be used for the common good, welfare, and education of the people of the Virgin Islands on heritage and cultural legacy, and for other related purposes

BLOCK III

- Bill No. [35-0133](#)** An Act amending title 17 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 15, relating to scholarships by adding section 190gg to establish an educational scholarship program to support individuals interested in pursuing a career in the maritime industry in the Virgin Islands
- Bill No. [35-0172](#)** An Act amending Title 29, chapter 5 Virgin Islands Code, relating to building codes to provide for adoption of nationally recognized consensus-based codes and standards and amendments to such codes that are in the best interests of the territory, and to provide for clarifications to the Virgin Islands building code
- Bill No. [35-0182](#)** An Act amending title 14 of the Virgin Islands Code chapter 51 by designating the existing provisions as subchapter I and adding a subchapter II relating to the nonconsensual dissemination of sexually explicit images.

Bill No. [35-0218](#)

An Act amending title 24 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 12 relating to unemployment benefits by: reducing the number of weeks that unemployment benefits can be received; increasing the statute of limitations for the collection of overpayments of unemployment benefits from claimants and for delinquent employer contribution; allowing for the implementation of the payroll variation methodology launch in the calendar year beginning January 2024; implementing a 10-year record retention period for employers; and requiring employers to register with the Virgin Islands State Information Data Exchange System.

**FRIDAY,
MARCH 15, 2024**

**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**
