



35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands
SENATE CALENDAR
March 11, 2024 – March 22, 2024

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.
Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room

Please be advised that the 35th Legislature's Committee on Homeland Security, Justice and Public Safety has scheduled a legislative committee hearing for **10:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 12, 2024** in the **Earle B. Ottley Legislative Chambers on St. Thomas**. This is an in-person hearing.

BLOCK I

10:00 A.M.

Bill No. [35-0115](#) An Act repealing title 24 Virgin Islands Code chapter 17, subchapter II, "Limited Use of Criminal Records in Hiring Practices," and enacting in its place "The Fair Chance for Employment Act" relative to criminal record checks in the employment application process; and amending title 3 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 25, subchapter I, section 452 requiring the Director of Personnel to develop and implement fair chance hiring policies; and for other related purposes

Invited Testifiers:**Honorable Gary Molloy**, Commissioner, Virgin Islands Department of Labor**Wynnie Testamark**, Director, Virgin Islands Bureau of Corrections**Cindy Richardson**, Director, Division of Personnel**Akeel St. Jean**, Chairman, St. Croix Chamber of Commerce**John P. Woods**, President, STT/STJ Chamber of Commerce**Kendra Roach**, President, VI Society for Human Resource Management**LUNCH****12:30 P.M.****BLOCK II****1:00 P.M.****Law Enforcement Officer Agency Update**

This update intends to provide information from agency enforcement divisions. The testimonies will include, yet not limited to, reports on agency recruitment efforts, certification and recertification procedures, enforcement strategies, execution of penalties, citation records, and current initiatives

Invited Testifiers:**Antonio Stevens**, Acting Director, VIFEMS**Leon Battiste**, Fire Marshal (STT/STJ), VIFEMS**Kevin Delande**, Fire Marshal (STX), VIFEMS**Carlton Dowe**, Executive Director, VI Port Authority**Edred Wilkes**, Chief (STT), VI Port Authority**Louis Flynn**, Chief (STX), VI Port Authority**Roger Merritt**, Executive Director, VI Waste Management Authority**Anderson Poleon**, Director, VI Waste Management Authority**Raymond Williams**, Executive Director, VI Lottery**Jakeema Richards**, Director, VI Lottery

**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. Otley 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 Festivals, Virgin Islands Department of Tourism
Ms. 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, Virgin Islands Cannabis Advisory Board
Honorable Nathalie E. 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 A.M.** 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 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**

CONSTITUENT MEETINGS AND OFFICE WORK

Reserved

**MONDAY,
MARCH 18, 2024**

**CHAIR: SENATOR MARVIN A. BLYDEN
VICE CHAIR: SENATOR MARISE C. JAMES**

**Committee on Housing, Transportation
and Telecommunications**

10:00 A.M.

TOUR

**TUESDAY,
MARCH 19, 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

**WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 20, 2024**

**CHAIR: SENATOR DIANE T. CAPEHART
VICE CHAIR: SENATOR KENNETH L. GITTENS**

**Committee on Rules and Judiciary
9:30 A.M.
Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room**

**THURSDAY,
MARCH 21, 2024**

CONSTITUENT MEETINGS AND OFFICE WORK

Reserved

**FRIDAY,
MARCH 22, 2024**

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

**Committee on Disaster Recovery,
Infrastructure and Planning
9:30 A.M.
Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall**
