



35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands
SENATE CALENDAR
March 25, 2024 – April 05, 2024

MONDAY,
MARCH 25, 2023

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

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

REGULAR SESSION - OFFICIAL AGENDA

Time: 10:00 A.M.

Call to Order: Honorable Novelle E. Francis, Jr.
Senate President

Invocation: Reverend Charles L. Brown, Jr.
Chaplain, 35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands

Anthems: National Anthem and Virgin Islands March

Roll Call: Honorable Carla J. Joseph
Legislative Secretary

Messages and/or Correspondences

Committee Reports: Chairperson of Standing Committees

Special Orders/Overrides:

CONSIDERATION OF FLOOR AGENDA:

Harold W. L. Willocks, Esq.

Nominee, Justice, Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands

Averil George

Commissioner Nominee, Department of Human Services

Antonio O. Stevens

Nominee, Director, Virgin Islands Fire and Emergency Medical Services

Maurice K. Muia

Nominee, Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority Board of Directors

May A. Cornwall

Nominee, Virgin Islands Coastal Zone Management - District of St. Croix

Dr. Nathaniel Olive

Non-Agricultural Interest Nominee, VI Conservation District - St. Croix

Carlos Robles

Land Occupier Nominee, VI Conservation District - St. Thomas

CONSIDERATION OF COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT PERMIT AND ZONINGS

- Bill No. [35-0212](#)** An Act ratifying Minor Coastal Zone Permit No. CZT-18-21(W) issued to Beach Life, LLC for the continued use and occupancy of submerged lands and the installation of a five-foot wide by thirty-foot long floating dock anchored by a four-foot wide by twenty-four-foot-long wooden walkway on the beach and seaward of Tract C-1 Estate Water Island, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands
- Bill No. [35-0213](#)** An Act granting a conditional zoning use variance for Plots Nos. 219 and 220 Estate Morning Star, Queen Quarter, St. Croix, from the R-1 (Residential-Low Density) zoning designation to allow for a restaurant and bar, amphitheater, retail, a barber or beauty salon, short-term rental/guesthouse, and event space rental/rental of commercial space
- Bill No. [35-0233](#)** An Act granting a use variance to Parcels No. 41 Remainder Estate Contant and 41-C Estate Contant, 7A Southside Quarter, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands to allow for commercial parking
- Bill No. [35-0234](#)** An Act granting a zoning variance from the I-2 (Light Industry) zoning designation to Revised Parcel No. 17-3 Remainder Estate Nisky, No. 6 Southside Quarter, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, to allow for a business hotel
- Bill No. [35-0235](#)** An Act amending Official Zoning Map No. STZ-7 to rezone Reconfigured Remainder Consolidated Parcel No. 1-13 Estate Donoe, No. 2A New Quarter, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, from R-4 (Residential-Medium Density) to B-3 (Business-Scattered)

CONSIDERATION OF LEASES

- 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 Center for Architecture, Crafts, and Build Heritage, St. Croix, Inc. d/b/a Virgin Islands Architecture Center for Build 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
- Bill No. [35-0245](#)** 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 the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority, for Plot No. B Lagoon Street Complex, Frederiksted Town, West End Quarter, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, consisting of two two-story buildings consisting collectively of 32,604 U.S. sq. ft. or 0.6366 U.S. acre of improved land more-or-less, for the operation of a Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Relief Program, and for other related purposes
- Bill No. [35-0246](#)** An Act approving the Lease Agreement between the Government of the Virgin Islands and Pro Mar Services, Inc. for Parcels No. 149-2, 159A and 159-1 Submarine Base, No. 6 Southside Quarter, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, and Parcel No. 159 Remainder, Southside Quarter, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION

- Bill No. [35-0116](#)** A Resolution honoring and commending Honorary Lieutenant Colonel Leayle Gerard Galiber for his leadership in the Virgin Islands National Guard and his dedication to his country and to the people of the Virgin Islands

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

- Bill No. [35-0107](#)** An Act posthumously honoring and commending Dr. Fenella Cooper for her contributions to the fields of education, sports and culture, and naming the UVI tennis courts in her honor
- 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
- Bill No. [35-0133](#)** An Act amending title 17 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 15, by adding section 190gg establishing a 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. [35-0178](#)** 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
- 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 non-consensual dissemination of sexually explicit images

- Bill No. [35-0184](#)** An Act to honor and commend Viggio E. Sewer posthumously for his ultimate contribution to the Virgin Islands and renaming East End Road on Route 10 on the island of St. John, in his honor
- 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
- Bill No. [35-0207](#)** An Act amending title 19 Virgin Islands Code, part I, adding chapter 6a to create the Territorial Chronic Kidney Disease, Stroke and Diabetes Registry
- Bill No. [35-0208](#)** An Act honoring and commending Mrs. Bernice Alma Turnbull for her lifetime service and dedication to the people of the Virgin Islands
- 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
- Bill No. [35-0223](#)** An Act renaming Gamle Gade the "William A. Industrious Street"
- Bill No. [35-0226](#)** An Act amending title 16 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 13, subchapter I, section 345, subsection (c) by establishing a minimum default amount for child support

**TUESDAY,
MARCH 26, 2024**

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

**Committee on Government Operations,
Veterans Affairs and Consumer Protection
10:00 A.M.
Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room**

The Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs, and Consumer Protection has scheduled a meeting for **10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 26, 2024 in the Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room on St. Croix**. The purpose of the meeting is to receive testimony and consider the following legislative measure:

BLOCK I

10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

The Committee will receive testimony concerning:

Bill No. [35-0030](#) An Act honoring and commending Vaughn Benjamin posthumously for his contributions to reggae music in the Virgin Islands and the global communities; appropriating \$45,000 to the Department of Sports, Parks and Recreation for the design and construction of the “Vaughn Benjamin Monument” and naming waterfront park west of the Marley Homes “The Vaughn ‘Akae Beka’ Memorial Park”.

Invited Testifiers:

Ms. Shenneth Canegata, Resident
Ms. Asasia Benjamin, Resident
Mr. Jahi Benjamin, Resident
Ms. Tysa Benjamin, Resident
Ms. Niani Benjamin, Resident
Mr. Kwengo Benjamin, Resident
Mr. Staworro Benjamin, Resident
Ms. Graciella Benjamin, Resident
Mr. Farrach Acevedo, Resident
Mr. Raymond Armstrong, Resident
Mr. Bevan Smith, Jr., Resident
Mr. Dale Wathey, Resident
Mr. Michael Lionel, Resident
Mr. Phil Codrington, Resident

LUNCH

12:00 P.M. – 1:00 P.M.

BLOCK II

2:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

The Committee will tour the Office of the Lieutenant Governor Facility in Christiansted, St. Croix.

**WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 27, 2024**

CONSTITUENT MEETINGS AND OFFICE WORK

Reserved

**THURSDAY,
MARCH 28, 2024**

HOLY THURSDAY

Holiday

**FRIDAY,
MARCH 29, 2024**

GOOD FRIDAY

Holiday

**MONDAY,
APRIL 01, 2024**

EASTER MONDAY

Holiday

**TUESDAY,
APRIL 02, 2024**

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

**Committee on Budget,
Appropriations and Finance**

10:00 A.M.

Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room

**WEDNESDAY,
APRIL 03, 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, April 03, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. in the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall St. Thomas.**

BLOCK I

10:00 A.M. – 10:30 A.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

10:35 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

The Committee will receive testimony on the public health challenges of managing diabetes in the United States Virgin Islands

Invited Testifier:

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

LUNCH

12:01 P.M. – 12:45 P.M.

BLOCK III

12:45 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

The Committee will receive testimony on the operational status of the Juan F. Luis Hospital.

Invited Testifier:

Mr. Doug Koch, Chief Executive Officer, Juan F. Luis Hospital

BLOCK VI**2:40 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.**

The Committee will receive an update on the transition of the Juan F. Luis Hospital to the JFL North Facility. In addition, the members will receive testimony on the construction and development of the Charlotte Kimelman Cancer Institute, and the Myrah Keating Smith Community Health Center.

Invited Testifier:

Mr. Darryl Smalls, Executive Director, Facilities and Corporate Development,
Territorial Hospital Redevelopment Team

**THURSDAY,
APRIL 04, 2024**

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

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

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., Thursday, April 4, 2024, in the Earle B. Ottery Legislative Hall on St. Thomas.

BLOCK I**10:00 A.M.**

St. Thomas Carnival Safety/Security Update - This update intends to provide an overview of safety and security efforts ahead of this year's St. Thomas Carnival events. Information provided will relate to safety and security, parking restrictions and accommodations, environmental clean-ups, permitting requirements, curbside pick-up, trash removal, trash containerization and other related matters.

Invited Testifiers:

Honorable Ray Martinez, Commissioner, Virgin Islands Police Department

Honorable Derek Gabriel, Commissioner, Virgin Islands Department of Public Works

Honorable Joseph Boschulte, Commissioner, Virgin Islands Department of Tourism

Honorable Justa Encarnacion, Commissioner, Virgin Islands Department of Health

Roger E. Merritt, Jr., Executive Director, Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority

**FRIDAY,
APRIL 05, 2024**

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

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