



36th Legislature of the Virgin Islands
SENATE CALENDAR
May 26, 2025 – June 06, 2025

MONDAY,
MAY 26, 2025

Memorial Day

HOLIDAY

TUESDAY,
MAY 27, 2025

CHAIR: SENATOR RAY FONSECA
VICE CHAIR: SENATOR HUBERT L. FREDERICK

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

Please be advised that the Committee on Health, Hospitals & Human Services will be conducting a meeting on **Tuesday, May 27, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.**, in the **Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall**, on St. Thomas.

BLOCK I

10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

- Bill No. [36-0050](#)** An Act repealing and reenacting with amendments title 27 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 20, relating to the regulation of the profession of social work and social workers
- Bill No. [36-0051](#)** An Act amending title 27 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 20 by establishing the Virgin Islands Board of Social Work Licensure
- Bill No. [36-0043](#)** An Act amending title 19 Virgin Islands Code, part VI, chapter 53, subchapter IV, section 1481 by increasing the penalties for violation of sanitation laws

Invited Testifiers:

Honorable H. Nathalie Hodge, Commissioner, Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs
Honorable Averil E. George, Commissioner, Department of Human Services
Ms. Juliette Millin, Chairperson, Virgin Islands Board of Social Work
Ms. Yvonne Woods, PhD, MSW, CSW, Program Director and Chairperson, Virgin Islands Board of Social Work
University of the Virgin Islands
Honorable Justa Encarnacion, Commissioner, Department of Health
Ms. Sophia Joseph Parrilla, PhD., Clinical Director, Island Therapy Solutions

BLOCK II**1:40 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.**

The Department of Human Services will provide a detailed overview on the status of the territory's Head Start program. The presentation will highlight key aspects of early childhood education and support services, as well as examine the potential impact of proposed federal cuts on the program.

Invited Testifier:

Honorable Averil E. George, Commissioner, Department of Human Services

**WEDNESDAY,
MAY 28, 2025**

PRESIDENT: SENATOR MILTON E. POTTER

VICE PRESIDENT: SENATOR KENNETH L. GITTENS

Older Americans' Mock Session

10:00 A.M.

Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall

OLDER AMERICANS' MONTH MOCK SESSION

Date:	Wednesday, May 28, 2025
Time:	10:00 A.M.
Location:	Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall
Call to Order:	Honorable Milton E. Potter, Senate President, 36 th Legislature
Anthems:	National Anthem and Virgin Islands March
Invocation:	Reverend Charles L. Brown, Jr., Chaplain
Roll Call:	Honorable Avery L. Lewis, Legislative Secretary

CONSIDERATION OF BILL

BR No. 25-000a

An Act amending title 29 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 5A to establish adequate access and resting areas in public buildings to senior citizens and physically disabled persons

**THURSDAY,
MAY 29, 2025**

**CHAIR: SENATOR MARISE C. JAMES
VICE CHAIR: SENATOR MILTON E. POTTER**

**Committee on Disaster Recovery,
Infrastructure and Planning**

10:00 A.M.

Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room

Please be advised that the Committee on Disaster Recovery, Infrastructure and Planning will be conducting a meeting on **Thursday, May 29, 2025**, at **10:00 a.m.**, in the **Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room**, on St. Croix.

BLOCK I

The Committee will receive testimony from the Department of Planning and Natural Resources on the implementation of the Comprehensive Land and Water Use Plan, including a review of:

- Progress made to date
- Current or anticipated challenges
- The projected timeline for next steps in the implementation process

Invited Testifier:

Honorable Jean-Pierre Oriol, Commissioner, Department of Planning and Natural Resources

BLOCK II

The Committee will receive testimony from the Office of Disaster Recovery on the status and effectiveness of ongoing disaster recovery efforts funded through FEMA in the aftermath of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, with a focus on the following key areas:

- A comprehensive status update on FEMA-funded disaster recovery projects
- The Envision Tomorrow Program
- An evaluation of the Super Property Management Office and whether it is achieving its intended purpose. An assessment of the effectiveness of bundling projects to expedite recovery efforts
- A discussion of the challenges faced in executing projects in the Virgin Islands, including workforce constraints, permitting delays, procurement issues, or federal coordination
- A reflection on the eight-year recovery timeline since Hurricanes Irma and Maria, highlighting both progress and remaining obstacles

Invited Testifier:

Adrienne L. Williams-Octalien, Director, Office of Disaster Recovery

**FRIDAY,
MAY 30, 2025**

CHAIR: SENATOR AVERY L. LEWIS
VICE CHAIR: SENATOR NOVELLE E. FRANCIS, JR.

**Committee on Government Operations,
Veterans Affairs and Consumer Protection**
9:00 A.M.
Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall

The Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs, and Consumer Protection has scheduled a meeting for **Friday, May 30, 2025, at 9:00 AM** in the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands to provide updates on the following agencies:

BLOCK I**9:00 A.M. - 10:30 A.M.**

Bill No. [36-0053](#) An Act amending title 3 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 25, subchapter V, section 555b to increase the minimum annual salary for full time employees of the Government of the Virgin Islands, its semi-autonomous agencies and independent instrumentalities from \$27,040 to \$32,000.

Invited Testifiers:**Ms. Cindy L. Richardson**, Director, Division of Personnel**Mr. Julio Rhymer, Sr.**, Director, Office of Management and Budget**Mr. Daniel Flippo**, Director, United Steel Workers**Mr. Gerard “Jerry” Jackson**, Staff Representative**BLOCK II****10:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.**

The Committee will receive testimony on the operations of the Virgin Islands Taxicab Commission including but not limited to enabling law and jurisdiction, current department challenges, a plan of action to resolve challenges and the following:

- The growing trend of illegal taxi operators, operating large passenger vehicles while posing as legitimate taxi drivers or limousine operators;
- Unregulated operators that violate the law and pose a significant threat to public safety;
- The agency’s staffing shortages; and
- Any other matters relative to the discussion of the status of the agency.

Invited Testifiers:**Ms. Melissa Smith**, Acting Executive Director, Virgin Islands Taxicab Commission**Ms. Elizabeth Hansen Watley**, Chairwoman, Virgin Islands Taxicab Commission Board**LUNCH****12:30 P.M. – 1:00 P.M.****BLOCK III****12:30 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.**

The Committee will receive testimony on the operations of the Office of Veterans Affairs including but not limited to enabling law and jurisdiction, its current challenges, a plan of action to resolve challenges and the following:

- Outcome of the efforts of the recent delegation’s travels to Puerto Rico;
- Effects of President Donald Trump’s Executive Orders on our territory; and
- Status of reimbursements due to local veterans, among other topics.

Invited Testifier:**Mr. Patrick Farrell**, Director, Virgin Islands Office of Veterans’ Affairs

BLOCK IV**2:30 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.**

The Committee will receive testimony on the operations of the Virgin Islands Lottery including but not limited to enabling law and jurisdiction, its current challenges, a plan of action to resolve challenges and the following:

- The cybersecurity incident and the subsequent **data restoration process**; and
- Growth of the Virgin Islands Lottery System, among other topics.

Invited Testifier:

Mr. Raymond J. Williams, Executive Director, Virgin Islands Lottery

**MONDAY,
JUNE 02, 2025**

**PRESIDENT: SENATOR MILTON E. POTTER
VICE PRESIDENT: SENATOR KENNETH L. GITTENS**

**Committee of the Whole
10:00 A.M.
Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall**

**TUESDAY,
JUNE 03, 2025**

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

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

**WEDNESDAY,
JUNE 04, 2025**

**PRESIDENT: SENATOR MILTON E. POTTER
VICE PRESIDENT: SENATOR KENNETH L. GITTENS**

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

**THURSDAY,
JUNE 05, 2025**

**CHAIR: SENATOR CLIFFORD A. JOSEPH, SR.
VICE CHAIR: SENATOR RAY FONSECA**

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

The 36th Legislature's Committee on Homeland Security, Justice and Public Safety will meet on Thursday, June 5, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall on St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands.

BLOCK I

10:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.

Bill No. [36-0020](#) An Act amending title 2 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 1, section 6 allowing the Police Chief of the Legislature; the Sergeant-of-Arms; or any security officer of the Legislature; who has peace officer status, to arrest a person who neglects or refuses to appear before the Legislature in obedience to subpoena.

Invited Testifiers:

Honorable Mario Brooks, Commissioner, Virgin Islands Police Department

Mr. Terrence D. Manning, Capitol Police Chief, Legislature of the U.S. Virgin Islands

BLOCK II**11:15 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.**

Bill No. [36-0027](#) An Act amending title 5 Virgin Islands Code, subtitle 3, part I, chapter 311 by enacting Jah'niqua's Law requiring a defendant to pay restitution in the form of child maintenance if the victim of the offense was the parent or guardian of a minor child or dependent and if the defendant was convicted of negligent homicide by means of a motor vehicle, a violation of title 20 Virgin Islands Code, section 504, while under the influence of or affected by intoxicating liquor or narcotic drugs; or was convicted of driving under the influence of intoxicating liquors or controlled substances, a violation of title 20 Virgin Islands Code, section 493, which results in an accident that causes the victim to become disabled or totally and permanently disabled.

Invited Testifiers:

Honorable Mario Brooks, Commissioner, Virgin Islands Police Department
Honorable Gordon Rhea, V.I. Attorney General, Virgin Islands Department of Justice
Mr. Frank Harris, Director of Governmental Affairs, Mothers Against Drunk Driving

LUNCH**12:30 P.M. – 1:00 P.M.****BLOCK III****1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.**

Bill No. [36-0057](#) An Act amending title 5 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 314, section 3733, subsection (a) to require automatic expungement of the arrest record and complaint or information when the accused has been acquitted.

Invited Testifiers:

Honorable Mario Brooks, Commissioner, Virgin Islands Police Department
Honorable Gordon Rhea, V.I. Attorney General, Virgin Islands Department of Justice
Ms. Julie Smith-Todman, Esq., Chief Public Defender, Virgin Islands Office of the Public Defender

Bill No. [36-0024](#) An Act amending title 14 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 85 by adding section 1710 declaring a person incapable of consent to sexual relations while the person is in police custody.

Invited Testifiers:

Honorable Mario Brooks, Commissioner, Virgin Islands Police Department
Honorable Gordon Rhea, V.I. Attorney General, Virgin Islands Department of Justice
Ms. Julie Smith-Todman, Esq., Chief Public Defender, Virgin Islands Office of the Public Defender
Ms. Anya Stuart, Executive Director, Family Resource Center, Inc.

BLOCK IV**3:15 P.M. - 4:15 P.M.****Bill No. [36-0031](#)**

An Act amending title 23 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 10, subchapter IV, section 1073 to exempt a public safety agency or private safety entity from liability for acts of negligence in the operation, administration or maintenance of a 911 service unless the acts are committed in a grossly negligent manner or are committed with willful intent.

Invited Testifiers:

Honorable Gordon Rhea, V.I. Attorney General, Virgin Islands Department of Justice

Mr. Daryl Jaschen, Director, V.I. Territorial Management Agency

FRIDAY,**JUNE 06, 2025****CHAIR: SENATOR KURT A. VIALET****VICE CHAIR: SENATOR AVERY L. LEWIS**

**Committee on Education
and Workforce Development**

9:00 A.M.**Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall**

The 36th Legislature's **Committee on Education and Workforce Development** will meet on **Friday, June 6, 2025**, at **9:00 a.m.** in the **Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall** on St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands.

The Committee will receive testimony regarding plans for summer repair and maintenance in public schools, as well as consider and vet proposed committee legislation.

BLOCK I**Plans for summer repair and maintenance in public schools****Invited Testifier:**

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

BLOCK II

Consider and vet proposed committee legislation

Bill No. [36-0049](#) An Act establishing the Bureau of School Security within the Virgin Islands Department of Education

Invited Testifiers:

Honorable Dionne Wells-Hedrington, Ph.D., Commissioner, Virgin Islands Department of Education

Gleston E. McIntosh, Jr., Executive Director, Virgin Islands Peace Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.)

Honorable Mario Brooks, Commissioner, Virgin Islands Police Department

Irvin Mason, Director of School Security, Virgin Islands Dept. of Education

Akeel Phillips, School Monitor, Virgin Islands Department of Education

Bill No. [36-0064](#) An Act amending title 33 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 111, section 3100i aligning the disbursement and spending limitations of funds allotted to public schools from the Education Initiative Fund with the realities of academic planning, ensuring that funds are used to maximize student success

Invited Testifiers:

Honorable Dionne Wells-Hedrington, Ph.D., Commissioner, Virgin Islands Department of Education

Julio Rhymer, Director, Office of Management and Budget
