



35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands
SENATE CALENDAR
September 09, 2024 – September 20, 2024

MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 09, 2024

CHAIR: SENATOR MARISE C. JAMES
VICE CHAIR: SENATOR DONNA A. FRETT-GREGORY

**Committee on Education
and Workforce Development**

10:00 A.M.

Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room

The Committee on Education & Workforce Development has scheduled a meeting for, Monday September 9, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. in the Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room, on St. Croix, Virgin Islands.

BLOCK I

The Committee will receive a status update from the Virgin Islands Department of Education on the success of the summer enrichment programs, the current status of school facilities and assessment of overall school readiness including but not limited to data on teacher vacancies and recruitment efforts to fill positions, data on student enrollment, information on assignment and reassignment of principals, and the status and use of the federal funds that must be spent by September 30, 2024. The Committee will hear from the newly hired Executive Director of the Bureau of School Construction and Maintenance about his plans and goals for the territorial schools. Finally, the Board of Education and St. Croix Public School Parent Coalition will present testimony on their respective priorities for the 2024-2025 school year and any concerns that the Board and the Coalition have as the new school year begins.

Invited Testifiers:

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

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

Dr. Kyza A. Callwood, Chairman, Virgin Islands Board of Education

Abdul Ali, Chairman, St. Croix Public School Parent Coalition

BLOCK II

Testifiers will provide information on the annual Educational Assistance provided to the Department of Education by EDC beneficiaries from 2020-2024; specifically, the process for the collection and transfer of funds to the Department of Education; the number of beneficiaries currently providing educational assistance, the total amount of money provided annually to the Department of Education for public school programs and initiatives, reports required to be generated to assess the success of the required assistance; and whether the legislation needs to be amended.

Invited Testifiers:

Honorable Dr. Dionne Wells-Hedrington, Commissioner, Virgin Islands Department of Education
Wayne Biggs, CEO, Virgin Islands Economic Development Authority

**TUESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 10, 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**

Please be advised that the 35th Legislature's Committee on Homeland Security, Justice, & Public Safety has scheduled a legislative committee hearing for 10:00 am, Tuesday, September 10, 2024, in the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall on St. Thomas.

The agenda is as follows:**BLOCK I****10:00 A.M.**

Bill No. [35-0031](#) An Act amending title 5, V.I.C., subtitle 3, part I, by adding a new chapter 301A, creating the Child Victims' and Child Witnesses' Rights Act and repealing chapter 301, subchapter IV, section 3510.

Department of Justice Operational Status Update: This update intends to provide a comprehensive overview of the current operational status of the Department of Justice. Key highlights will include but not be limited to an update on caseloads, encompassing criminal, civil matters and white-collar crimes and on the construction of the new morgue on St. Croix.

Invited Testifiers:

Honorable Averil George, Commissioner, Department of Human Services

Gordon Rhea, Esq., Attorney General Nominee, Department of Justice

Dr. Clema Lewis, Director, Women's Coalition of St. Croix

Darian Torrice-Hairston, Director, Nana Baby Children's Home

BLOCK II

1:30 P.M.

Department of Public Works, Office of Highway Safety, and Traffic Investigation Bureau Operational Status Update: This update intends to provide an overview of the current operational status of the Department of Public Works and the VIPD's Office of Highway Safety and Traffic Investigation Bureau. The update will include, but not be limited to any ongoing projects, key initiatives aimed at enhancing roadway safety and infrastructure. Additionally, information on progress made in traffic investigations and plans for future improvements will be discussed.

Invited Testifiers:

Honorable Derek Gabriel, Commissioner, Department of Public Works

Mario Brooks, Acting Commissioner, VI Police Department

**WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 11, 2024**

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

**Committee on Economic Development
and Agriculture**

10:00 A.M.

Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room

The Committee on Economic Development and Agriculture has scheduled a meeting for Wednesday, September 11, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the Frits E. Lawaetz Conference Room on St. Croix. The Committee will receive a status update from the Virgin Islands Cannabis Advisory Board and the Virgin Islands Office of Cannabis Regulations.

BLOCK I**10:00 A.M. – 12:00 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

Ms. Joanne Moorehead, Executive Director, USVI Office of Cannabis Regulations

Honorable Nathalie E. Hodge, Commissioner, Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs

Mr. Horace Graham, Assistant Commissioner, Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs

RECESS**12:00 P.M. – 12:30 P.M.****BLOCK II****12:30 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.**

The Committee will consider:

Bill No [35-0283](#) An Act amending title 19 Virgin Islands Code, part III, chapter 34, the Virgin Islands Cannabis Use.

Invited Testifiers:

Ms. Joanne Moorehead, Executive Director, USVI Office of Cannabis Regulations

Mr. Kevin Williams, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor

Kye Walker, Esq., Managing Attorney, The Walker Legal Group, Christiansted, St. Croix

**THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 12, 2024**

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

Committee on Rules and Judiciary

9:30 AM

Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room

The Committee on Rules and Judiciary has scheduled a meeting for Thursday, September 12, 2024, at 9:30 A.M. in the Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room, St. Croix, Virgin Islands to consider the following bill and nominations:

BLOCK I

Governor’s Nomination of Vance E. Pinney

Nominee, Virgin Islands Coastal Zone Management Commission – District of St. Thomas

BLOCK II

Governor’s Nomination of Gordon C. Rhea, Esq.

Attorney General Nominee, Virgin Islands Department of Justice

BLOCK III

Bill No. [35-0303](#) An Act approving the Government of the Virgin Islands’ conveyance of Plot No. 25B Hill Street, Company Quarter, Christiansted, St. Croix, Virgin Islands to the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority

**FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 13, 2024**

CONSTITUENT MEETINGS AND OFFICE WORK

Reserved

**MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 16, 2024**

OFFICE OF THE SENATE PRESIDENT

Reserved

**TUESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 17, 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. Otley Legislative Hall**

**WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 18, 2024**

CONSTITUENT MEETINGS AND OFFICE WORK

Reserved

**THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 19, 2024**

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

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

**FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 20, 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**
