



35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands
REVISED SENATE CALENDAR
September 11, 2023 – September 22, 2023

**MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 11, 2023**

POSTPONED

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

**Committee on Budget, Appropriations,
and Finance**
9:00 A.M.
Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall

The 35th Legislature's Committee on Budget, Appropriations and Finance will meet Monday, September 11, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall on St. Thomas, Virgin Islands.

**TUESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 12, 2023**

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, & Public Safety has scheduled a legislative committee hearing for 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, September 12, 2023 in the Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room on St. Croix. The Committee is expected to receive testimony from the Bureau of Corrections (BOC) and updates from the Virgin Islands Territorial Management Agency (VITEMA) and supporting agencies, relative to preparation for the current hurricane season. This is an in-person hearing.

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

Bill No. [35-0045](#) An Act amending title 5 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 407 relating to eligibility for parole by adding section 4601a to establish Medical Parole as a basis for parole; further amending title 5 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 407 by adding section 4601b to establish Geriatric Parole as a basis for parole and for other related purposes.

Invited Testifiers:

Wynnie Testamark, Director, V.I. Bureau of Corrections

Dennis Howell, Chairman, V.I. Parole Board

BOC officials are also expected to give testimony pursuant to a subpoena dated August 4, 2023. Testimony should include matters related to inmates remanded to the care, custody and control of the Bureau who are housed at off-island facilities. Specifically, about the Bureau's director or staff's visits to the facility and inmates, availability of academic and vocational programs and other related topics.

BLOCK II**1:00 P.M.**

The Committee is expected to receive testimony from the Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency and supporting agencies relative to the state of readiness as we enter the peak of the 2023 Hurricane Season. Topics of discussions will include infrastructure, shelters, emergency housing, public safety and more.

Invited Testifiers:

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

Daryl Jaschen, Director, VITEMA

MG Kodjo S. Knox-Limbacker, Adjutant General, V.I. National Guard

Honorable Kimberly Causey-Gomez, Commissioner, Department of Human Services

Daryl A. George, Director, V.I. Fire/EMS

Honorable Derek Gabriel, Commissioner, Department of Public Works

**WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 13, 2023**

**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, September 13, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall** on the island of St. Thomas. The Committee will receive a status update from the Office of Cannabis Regulations (OCR), and the Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture.

BLOCK I

10:00 A.M.

The Committee will receive an update on the overall status of the USVI Office of Cannabis Regulations (OCR).

Invited Testifiers:

Ms. Nathalie Hodge, Commissioner Nominee, Virgin Islands Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs

Ms. Hannah Carty, Executive Director, Virgin Islands Cannabis Advisory Board

Dr. Catherine Kean, Chairwoman of the Cannabis Advisory Board, Virgin Islands Cannabis Advisory Board

RECESS

12:30 P.M. – 1:00 P.M.

BLOCK II

1:00 P.M.

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

Invited Testifier:

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

**THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 14, 2023**

CONSTITUENT MEETINGS AND OFFICE WORK

Reserved

**FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 15, 2023**

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

**Committee of the Whole/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

Anthems: National Anthem and Virgin Islands March

Roll Call: Honorable Carla J. Joseph
Legislative Secretary

Messages and/or Correspondences

The **Thirty-Fifth Legislature** will convene in a Committee of the Whole Hearing to receive testimony on the following zoning requests:

BR 23-0502 An Act granting a zoning use variance for Parcel No. Remainder 30C Estate Elizabeth, No.8i Great Northside Quarter, St. Thomas, from the R-2 (Residential-Low Density One and Two Family) zoning designation to allow for a scenic lookout with a restaurant/bar and gift shop

Invited Testifiers:

Leia LaPlace-Matthew, Territorial Planner, Department of Planning and Natural Resources

Lionel Warrell, Applicant

BR 23-0729 An Act granting a use variance for Parcel No. 17D-1 Estate Bovoni, Nos. 1 & 2, Frenchman's Bay Quarter, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands from the C (Commercial) zoning to house a fuel storage facility consisting of a maintenance/storage building, and a parking/truck storage containment storage

Invited Testifiers:

Leia LaPlace-Matthew, Territorial Planner, Department of Planning and Natural Resources

Christian F. Rosenberg, Representative, Dry Marina, LLC

The Thirty-Fifth Legislature will rise out of Committee of the Whole and convene into Legislative Session to consider the following:

Committee Reports: Chairperson of Standing Committees

CONSIDERATION OF FLOOR AGENDA:

CONSIDERATION OF BILL

Bill No. [35-0112](#) An Act approving the conveyance by the Government of the Virgin Islands of the United States to the United States of America, Department of Interior, acting by and through the National Park Service, of Tract No. 02-101 Whistling Island a/k/a Whistling Cay, Cruz Bay Quarter, St. John, Virgin Islands in exchange for the Department of Interior, National Park Service's conveyance to the Government of the Virgin Islands of the United States of a portion of Tract No. 01-137A Catherineberg (Hammer's Farm) Cruz Bay Quarter, St. John, Virgin Islands, and directing the Government to deposit of the proceeds from the parcel exchange into the St. John Capital Improvements Fund

**MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 18, 2023**

OFFICE OF THE SENATE PRESIDENT

Reserved

**TUESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 19, 2023**

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

**Committee on Budget, Appropriations,
and Finance**

9:00 A.M.

Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall

The Committee on Budget, Appropriations, and Finance will meet on Tuesday, September 19, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. in the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall to receive close out testimony from the Governor's Financial Team on the proposed Fiscal Year 2024 Executive Budget for the Government of the Virgin Islands of the United States.

**WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 20, 2023**

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

Committee on Rules and Judiciary

9:30 A.M.

Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall

**THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 21, 2023**

**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 and Workforce Development will receive testimony from the Virgin Islands Department of Human Services, Virgin Islands Department of Health, University of the Virgin Islands and Lutheran Social Services regarding the following:

The agency, department, or organization's role in Early Childhood Care and Education in the Virgin Islands, specifically programs that address early childhood care, health, nutrition, play, early learning, social services, and parental involvement including promoting family literacy.

An overview of the state of childhood care and education programs under their jurisdiction, including the enrollment figures, program outcomes, the status and effectiveness of programs and any initiatives aimed at improving access and enhancing the quality of early childhood care and education.

Invited Testifiers:

Honorable Kimberly Causey-Gomez, Commissioner, Virgin Islands Department of Human Services

Honorable Justa E. Encarnacion, Commissioner, Virgin Islands Department of Health

Karen H. Brown, Ph.D., MPH, CCC-SLP, Dean of the School of Education, University of the Virgin Islands

Junia John Straker, Chief Executive Officer, Lutheran Social Services of the Virgin Islands, Inc.

**THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 21, 2023**

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

Committee of the Whole

6:00 P.M.

Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room

**FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 22, 2023**

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

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