

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2025

CHAIR: SENATOR CARLA J. JOSEPH VICE CHAIR: SENATOR KENNETH L. GITTENS

Committee on Rules and Judiciary 10:00 A.M.
Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall

Please be advised that the 36th Legislature of the Virgin Islands Committee on Rules and Judiciary has schedule a hearing **for Monday, September 15, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall on St. Thomas.** The purpose of the hearing is to consider the bills pertaining to the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget.

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BLOCK I		
Bill No. <u>36-0154</u>	An act providing a lump-sum appropriation from the Health Revolving Fund to the Virgin Islands Department of Health and a contribution to the General Fund of the Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands for fiscal year October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026	
Bill No. <u>36-0155</u>	An act providing a lump sum appropriation from the General Fund to the Virgin Islands Fire and Emergency Medical Services Fund for the fiscal year October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026	
Bill No. <u>36-0156</u>	An act providing an appropriation from the Business and Commercial Properties Revolving Fund to the Virgin Islands Department of Property and Procurement for operating expenses for the fiscal year October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026	
Bill No. <u>36-0157</u>	An act providing an appropriation from the Virgin Islands Lottery as a contribution to the General Fund of the Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands for the fiscal year October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026	
Bill No. <u>36-0158</u>	An act providing an appropriation from the District Public Road Fund of the Government of the Virgin Islands to the Department of Public Works for operating expenses for the fiscal year October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026	
Bill No. <u>36-0159</u>	An act providing an appropriation from the Indirect Cost Fund for the operating expenses of the Office of Management and Budget, the Virgin Islands Division of Personnel, the Virgin Islands Department of Property and Procurement and the Virgin Islands Department of Finance for the fiscal year October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026	
Bill No. <u>36-0160</u>	An act providing an appropriation from the General Fund of the Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands to the St. Croix Capital Improvement Fund and the St. Thomas Capital Improvement Fund for fiscal year October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026	

Bill No. <u>36-0161</u>	An act appropriating \$25,500,000 to the Legislature of the Virgin Islands in the fiscal year October
	1, 2025 through September 30, 2026

- Bill No. 36-0162 An act appropriating \$20,000,000 from the Virgin Islands Insurance Guaranty Fund as a contribution to the General Fund of the Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands in the fiscal year October 1, 2025 through, September 30, 2026
- An act providing an appropriation for salaries and expenses of the Virgin Islands Board of Elections and the Office of the Supervisor of Elections in the fiscal year October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026

BLOCK II

- An act providing a lump-sum appropriation from the School Construction, Maintenance and Capital Fund to the Bureau of School Construction and Maintenance for repair, renovation and maintenance of public schools and facilities in fiscal year October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026
- Bill No. 36-0165

 An act appropriating \$6,000,000 from the Caribbean Basin Initiative Fund as a contribution to the General Fund of the Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands in fiscal year October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026
- An act providing an appropriation from the Tourism Advertising Revolving Fund to the Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority, the Office of the Governor, the Virgin Islands Department of Education, the Virgin Islands Police Department, the Virgin Islands Department of Public Works, the Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture, the Virgin Islands Department of Sports, Parks and Recreation, the Virgin Islands Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs, the Virgin Islands Public Broadcasting System and the Virgin Islands Department of Tourism during the fiscal year October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026
- **Bill No.** 36-0167 An act providing an appropriation for the salaries and expenses of the University of the Virgin Islands for the fiscal year October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026
- Bill No. 36-0168 An act providing an appropriation for the operating expenses of the Public Employees Relations Board and the Virgin Islands Labor Management Committee for the fiscal year October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026
- An act appropriating the sum of \$1,000,000 from the Virgin Islands Education Initiative Fund to the School Construction, Maintenance and Capital Fund for the fiscal year October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026
- An act providing an appropriation for the operating expenses of the Waste Management Authority from the Sewer Waste Water Fund of the Government of the Virgin Islands for the fiscal year October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026

Bill No. <u>36-0171</u>	An act providing an appropriation for the operating expenses of the Virgin Islands Hospital and
	Health Facilities Corporation from the General Fund of the Treasury of the Government of the
	Virgin Islands during the fiscal year October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026

- An act providing an appropriation for the operating expenses of the Virgin Islands Office of the Inspector General from the General Fund of the Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands for the fiscal year October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026
- **Bill No.** 36-0173 An act providing an appropriation for the operation of the Judicial Branch of the Government of the Virgin Islands, the Judicial Council and the Office of the Territorial Public Defender during the fiscal year October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026

BLOCK III

- **Bill No.** 36-0175 An act providing an appropriation for the operating expenses of the Public Services Commission for the fiscal year October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026
- An act providing an appropriation from the General Fund of the Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands to the St. John Capital Improvement Fund for fiscal year October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026
- Bill No. 36-0177 An act providing an appropriation for the operating expenses of the Virgin Islands Board of Education from the General Fund of the Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands during the fiscal year October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026
- An act providing an appropriation from the Transportation Trust Fund as a contribution to the General Fund and for the operating expenses of the Virgin Islands Bureau of Motor Vehicles and the Department of Public Works during the fiscal year October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026
- Bill No. 36-0179 An act providing an appropriation for the operating expenses of the Virgin Islands Career and Technical Education Board from the General Fund of the Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands during the fiscal year October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026
- **Bill No.** 36-0180 An act providing an appropriation to the Virgin Islands Taxicab Commission for the fiscal year October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026
- An act providing an appropriation from the Anti-Litter and Beautification Fund to the Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority and the Virgin Islands Department of Public Works for operating expenses during the fiscal year October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026
- An act providing an appropriation for the operating expenses of the Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority from the General Fund of the Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands during the fiscal year October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026

Bill No. <u>36-0186</u>

An act appropriating \$6,074,209 from the GVI/JPMC Charitable Fund to the General Fund of the Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands for the fiscal year October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026

Bill No. <u>36-0120</u>

An act appropriating the sum of \$341,460 from the Virgin Islands Education Initiative Fund to the Virgin Islands Department of Education in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025 for the purpose of conducting evaluations to determine students' eligibility for special education services

Bill No. <u>36-0174</u>

An act providing an appropriation from the General Fund of the Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands for the operation of the Government of the Virgin Islands during the fiscal year October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026 and amending title 3 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 27 requiring legislative approval for increased employer and employee contribution amounts to the Government Employees Retirement System

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2025

CONSTITUENT MEETINGS AND OFFICE WORK

Reserved

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

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

Committee of the Whole/Regular Session 10:00 A.M.

Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

CONSTITUENT MEETINGS AND OFFICE WORK

Reserved

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2025

CHAIR: SENATOR ANGEL L. BOLQUES, JR. VICE CHAIR: SENATOR CARLA J. JOSEPH

Committee on Culture, Youth, Aging, Sports and Parks 10:00 A.M. Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall

The Committee on Culture, Youth, Aging, Sports, and Parks will convene a legislative hearing to examine the operational oversight, progress, and challenges of recreational facilities and capital improvement projects of the Department of Sports, Parks, and Recreation across the Virgin Islands. The hearing will also include a legislative review of Bill No. 36-0099 addressing elder abuse response systems and a special policy discussion regarding CMS (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) certification for the Virgin Islands' aging and senior care facilities

BLOCK I 10:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

Department of Sports, Parks, and Recreation - Territorial Operations Review

Invited Testifier:

Vincent Roberts, Commissioner Designee, Department of Sports, Parks, and Recreation

LUNCH 12:30 P.M. – 1:00 P.M.

BLOCK II 1:30 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

Bill No. 36-0099 An act amending title 34 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 15 expanding the Elder and Dependent

Invited Testifiers:

Honorable Averil George, Commissioner, Department of Human Services Gordon Rhea, Esq., Attorney General of the Virgin Islands, Department of Justice Troy deChabert-Schuster, State Director, AARP Virgin Islands Angus Drigo, Executive Director, Disability Rights Center Virgin Islands

BLOCK III 2:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Policy Discussion - CMS Certification for Senior Living Facilities

The Committee will engage in a policy discussion on Aging focused on the current status and pathway toward achieving CMS (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) certification for senior living and long-term care facilities in the U.S. Virgin Islands. CMS certification is essential for facilities seeking to provide care reimbursable under Medicare and Medicaid, and ensures compliance with federal standards for quality, safety, and patient rights.

The Committee will examine:

- 1. Where are we now? Assessing the current certification status of senior living facilities.
- **2. What's required?** Understanding CMS's Conditions of Participation, operational manuals, and compliance criteria.
- **3. What's next?** Outlining a strategic path forward for certification, facility upgrades, and access to CMS federal funding.

Invited Testifiers:

Honorable Averil George, Commissioner, Department of Human Services Troy deChabert-Schuster, State Director, AARP Virgin Islands Honorable Justa Encarnacion, Commissioner, Department of Health Junia John-Straker, CEO, Lutheran Social Services of Virgin Islands

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2025

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

Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs and Consumer Protection 9:30 A.M.

Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room

The Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs, and Consumer Protection has scheduled a meeting for **Monday, September 22, 2025, at 9:30 AM** in the Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room, St. Croix, Virgin Islands to provide testimony on the following bills:

BLOCK I 9:30 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.

Bill No. <u>36-0061</u>

An Act amending title 3 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 27, section 706 and chapter 28A, section 755 allowing retirees who are receiving an annuity from the Government Employees Retirement System who are subsequently employed by the University of the Virgin Islands ("UVI"), to continue to receive their GERS annuity while receiving their salary from the University if the retiree enrolls in a different retirement plan.

Invited Testifiers:

Mr. Angel E. Dawson, Administrator, Government Employees Retirement System Ms. Safiya George, PhD, President, University of the Virgin Islands

BLOCK II 11:00 P.M. - 12:30 P.M.

Bill No. <u>36-0102</u>

An act amending title 31 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 23 by re-enacting section 236b requiring the use of construction materials manufactured in the Virgin Islands, to the greatest extent practicable, for locally or federally funded contracts with the Government of the Virgin Islands.

Invited Testifiers:

Honorable Lisa Alejandro, Commissioner, Department of Property and Procurement

Honorable Derek A. Gabriel, Commissioner, Department of Public Works

Dr. Haldane Davies, Director, Virgin Islands Bureau of Economic Research (BER)

Mr. Donald Stevens, Partner, Cat5 Builders, LLC

Mr. Eric Castro, Owner, Universal Concrete

Ms. Yvette Williams, Manager of Accounting, Heavy Materials

Mr. Dion Alibocas, General Manager, Masters Concrete VI

BLOCK III 12:30 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.

Bill No. <u>36-0058</u>

An Act honoring and commending Dennis "Pumpa" Lennox Leroy Liburd, Jr. for his many contributions to the Virgin Islands culture and music industry as a Soca artist by awarding him the Official key to the Territory and naming the main entrance of 6-Y Peters Rest Road, Christiansted, St. Croix in his honor.

Invited Testifiers:

Mr. Bryan "Benny Demus" Boulai, DJ, Music Director, Manager & Producer

Mr. Ian M. Turnbull, Director, Division of Festivals

Mr. Yohannes Worede, President, USVI Soccer Federation & Peters Rest Apts. Inc.

Ms. Ushana Khublal, Owner of KUSH ENT

Mr. Kai Hendricks, Director, Converged Networks ONE Communications VI

BLOCK VI 2:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.

Bill No. 36-0107

A resolution honoring and commending Dr. Alfred Lee Anduze for his outstanding achievements and significant contributions to the fields of medicine, science, public health, and community empowerment.

Invited Testifiers:

Mr. Terrance E. Highfield, Long time close fiend

Ms. Jennifer Jackson, Good friend and Former UVI Chancellor

Ms. Rita Dudley Grant, PhD, Cousin

Judge Patricia D. Steele, Cousin

Judge George W. Cannon, Jr., Good friend

Ms. Angela Torres McGhee, PhD, Cousin

Mr. Richard A. Schrader, Sr., Mentor, Patient & Friend

Mr. Frank Duggan, Long time close friend

BLOCK V 3:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Bill No. <u>36-0121</u> An act to rename the Peter Carl Limpricht Park the TSK Park in honor of the Ten Sleepless Knights quelbe band and making an appropriation to effectuate that change.

Invited Testifiers:

Mr. Stanley Jacobs, Treasurer/Founder and Band Leader, Ten Sleepless Knights, Inc.

Dr. Lauren Larsen, President, Ten Sleepless Knights, Inc.

Ms. Vivian Ebbesen, President, Crucian Cultural Group (CCG)

Mr. Myron Jackson, Former Senator, Legislature of the Virgin Islands

Mr. Vincent Roberts, Commissioner Designee, Department of Sports, Parks and Recreation

Honorable Derek M. Gabriel, Commissioner, Department of Public Works

TUESDAY,

SEPTEMBER 23, 2025

CONSTITUENT MEETINGS AND OFFICE WORK

Reserved

WEDNESDAY,

SEPTEMBER 24, 2025

CONSTITUENT MEETINGS AND OFFICE WORK

Reserved

THURSDAY,

SEPTEMBER 25, 2025

CHAIR: SENATOR CARLA J. JOSEPH

VICE CHAIR: SENATOR KENNETH L. GITTENS

Committee on Rules and Judiciary

10:00 A.M.

Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2025

CONSTITUENT MEETINGS AND OFFICE WORK

Reserved