

36<sup>th</sup> Legislature of the Virgin Islands SENATE CALENDAR June 09, 2025 – June 16, 2025

MONDAY, JUNE 09, 2025

# CHAIR: SENATOR HUBERT L. FREDERICK VICE CHAIR: SENATOR ANGEL L. BOLQUES, JR.

Committee on Economic Development and Agriculture 10:00 A.M. Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room

# BLOCK I

Discussion on Economic Development and Self-Sustainability in the U.S. Virgin Islands

This block will explore ongoing efforts and future strategies to strengthen the Virgin Islands economy and advance toward greater self-sufficiency. The discussion will highlight the roles of key agencies—including the Virgin Islands Economic Development Authority and the Bureau of Economic Research—in guiding policy development, monitoring economic trends, and supporting sustainable growth. Topics may include recent data-driven insights, progress on long-term economic plans, support for small business development, investment promotion, workforce initiatives, and efforts to build a more resilient and diversified local economy.

### **Invited Testifiers:**

Mr. Wayne Biggs, Jr., Executive Director, Virgin Islands Economic Development Authority Haldane E. Davies, Ph. D., Director, Virgin Islands Economic Development Authority

# LUNCH BREAK

# BLOCK II

**Bill No.** <u>36-0065</u> An Act amending Act No. 8512 by removing the responsibility of the Virgin Islands Port Authority from constructing a warehouse on the former Addelita Cancryn Junior High School campus to requiring the Port Authority to assist with the design, retrofitting and renovation of an existing warehouse located on Parcel No. 1B and 47B-1 Gasverks Gade, No. 3 Crown Prince Quarter, St. Thomas The Committee will receive testimony on the proposed legislative amendment, including its potential impact on project implementation, inter-agency coordination, and overall cost-efficiency.

#### **Invited Testifiers:**

Mr. Carlton Dowe, Executive Director, Virgin Islands Port Authority

**Mr. Craig Benjamin**, Executive Director, Virgin Islands Bureau of School Construction and Maintenance **Honorable Dionne Wells-Hedrington, EdD**, Commissioner, Virgin Islands Department of Education **Honorable Lisa Alejandro**, Commissioner, Virgin Islands Department of Property and Procurement

TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 2025

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

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

The Committee on Budget, Appropriations and Finance will meet on Tuesday, June 10, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall to receive testimony on the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget.

# 10:00 A.M. Department of Finance Honorable Kevin G. McCurdy, Commissioner

Public Finance Authority Nathan Simmonds, Director of Finance and Administration

Office of Disaster Recovery Adrienne Williams-Octalien, Director

#### 12:00 P.M. LUNCH

- 1:00 P.M. Internal Revenue Bureau Joel A. Lee, Director
- 3:00 P.M. Office of Management & Budget Julio Rhymer, Sr., Director

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 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. Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room

The Committee on Culture, Youth, Aging, Sports, and Parks will convene a hearing on **Wednesday**, **June 11, 2025, at 10:00 AM at the Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Hall on St. Croix** to receive testimony and updates regarding the current status of the Paul E. Joseph Stadium construction project.

The current construction status and execution timeline, updates on the contractual standing with GEC, LLC and affiliated project vendors, procurement challenges encountered and their proposed or implemented resolutions, oversight and accountability measures ensuring fiscal responsibility and project performance, and interagency coordination efforts to support the timely advancement of project phases.

#### **Invited Testifiers:**

**Honorable Lisa Alejandro**, Commissioner, Department of Property and Procurement **Mr. John Wessel**, Representative, GEC, LLC

THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2025

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

Committee on Budget, Appropriations and Finance 10:00 A.M. Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room

The Committee on Budget, Appropriations and Finance will meet on Thursday, June 12, 2025, 10:00 A.M. in the Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room on St. Croix to receive testimony on the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget.

#### **Invited Testifier:**

Mrs. Joann A. Murphy, Chairperson, VI Career & Technical Board

#### **BLOCK II**

The Committee will also receive testimony on the following bills:

**Bill No.** <u>36-0025</u> An Act appropriating \$90,000 from the General Fund of the Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands to the Virgin Islands Department of Human Services to purchase allin-one mobile health, wellness, and personal safety devices for Virgin Islands senior citizens and other vulnerable residents, and pay the annual service associated with maintenance of the devices

Invited Testifiers: Honorable Averil E. George, Commissioner, VI Department of Human Services Mr. Barry Broome, President, ADT Mrs. Esther Merla Phillips, Resident **Bill No.** <u>36-0042</u> An Act amending title 33 Virgin Islands Code subtitle 3, chapter 118, section 3411 to increase the maximum judgement amount for the award of damages against the Government of the Virgin Islands

# Invited Testifier:

Honorable Gordon C. Rhea, Esq. Attorney General, VI Department of Justice

**Bill No.** <u>36-0076</u> An Act repealing title 25 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 17, section 501 and amending title 32 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 21 by adding an article XVII relating to cruise ship gaming in the territorial waters of the Virgin Islands

#### **Invited Testifiers:**

Honorable Joseph B. Boschulte, Commissioner, VI Department of Tourism Marvin L. Pickering, Chairman, VI Casino Control Commission
Carlton Dowe, Executive Director, VI Port Authority
Akeel St. Jean, Esq., President, St. Croix Chamber of Commerce
John Woods, President, St. Thomas/St. John Chamber of Commerce

FRIDAY,

JUNE 13, 2025

### CONSTITUENT MEETINGS AND OFFICE WORK

Reserved

MONDAY, JUNE 16, 2025

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

Committee on Disaster Recovery, Infrastructure and Planning 10:00 A.M. Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall

#### **BLOCK I**

**Bill No.** <u>36-0070</u> An Act amending title 28 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 19 by adding section 423 relating to failure to use property acquired through the exercise of the power of eminent.

#### **Invited Testifiers:**

Honorable Jean-Pierre Oriol, Commissioner, Department of Planning and Natural Resources Honorable Gordon Rhea, Esq., Attorney General, Virgin Islands Department of Justice Honorable Lisa Alejandro, Commissioner, Department of Property and Procurement

#### **BLOCK II**

The Committee will receive testimony from the Office of the Lieutenant Governor on the Street Addressing Initiative Program including a comprehensive update, progress achieved, challenges faced, and anticipated timeline for next steps

#### **Invited Testifiers:**

Nadja Harrigan, Esq., Acting Chief of Staff, Office of the Lieutenant Governor Chris George, Administrator, GIS Division, Office of the Lieutenant Governor Frandelle Gerard, Executive Director, Crucian Heritage & Nature Tourism

TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 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 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.** <u>36-0049</u> 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

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

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

The Committee on Budget, Appropriations and Finance will meet on Wednesday, June 18, 2025, 10:00 A.M. in the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall on St. Thomas to receive testimony on the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget.

BLOCK I

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

1:00 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.

**Bureau of Corrections** Wynnie Testamark, Director

# **BLOCK II**

#### **Department of Justice** Honorable Gordon C. Rhea, Esq., Attorney General

Continuation of the Committee on Budget, Appropriations and Finance Hearing on Wednesday, June 18, 2025, 6:00 P.M. in the Cleone H. Creque Legislative Conference Room on St. John to receive testimony on the following bill:

# **BLOCK III**

#### Bill No. 36-0092 An Act approving the lease agreement between the Government of the Virgin Islands and St. John Taxi Services Corporation, for Parcel No. D-2 Estate Cruz Bay Town, Cruz Bay Quarter, St. John, Virgin Islands

### **Invited Testifiers:**

Mr. Vincent Richards, Assistant Commissioner, VI Department of Property and Procurement Mr. Sean L. Claxton, President, St. John Taxi Services Corporation Ms. Carmen Wesselhoft, Taxi Driver

THURSDAY,

# 6:00 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.

JUNE 19, 2025

JUNETEENTH

Holiday

FRIDAY, JUNE 20, 2025

# **CONSTITUENT MEETINGS AND OFFICE WORK**

Reserved