



Legislature of the Virgin Islands

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POST AUDIT DIVISION

January 30, 2024

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Donna A. Frett-Gregory
Chairperson, Committee on Budget, Appropriations, and Finance
35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands

FROM: Post Audit Division

SUBJECT: Bill No. 35-0133 – An Act amending title 17, Virgin Islands code, chapter 15, relating to scholarships by adding section 190gg to establish an educational scholarship program to support individuals interested in pursuing a career in the maritime industry in the Virgin Islands

ANALYSIS

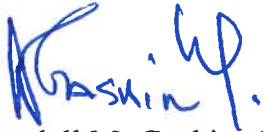
Bill No. 35-0133 seeks to do the following:

- Scholarship to be administered by the Virgin Islands Board of Education.
- Support individuals interested in pursuing a career in the maritime industry in the Virgin Islands.
- Applicants must be residents of the Virgin Islands and demonstrate a genuine interest in pursuing a career in the maritime industry.
- Eligible applicants may include high school graduates, college students, or individuals seeking enrollment in accredited maritime college, universities, vocational institutions, or other recognized education programs.
- Scholarship grants may not exceed \$10,000 per year.
- Grants must be applied to payment of tuition, lodging, board, transportation expenses, or any other related expenses in connection with the studies in each case.
- Student shall sign a contract committing the student to return to the Virgin Islands upon completion and work in the industry or related field.
- Students who fail to comply is liable to the Government of the Virgin Islands for the amount of the scholarship.
- The Board of Education shall maintain accurate records of the scholarship program's administration, including the number of applicants, the selection process, and distribution of funds.
- An annual report shall be submitted to the Governor and the Legislature for review.

- The Board of Education shall promote awareness of the scholarship program along with program information, application details, deadlines must be readily available on the Board's website and other platforms.

SUMMARY

Bill No. 35-0133 seeks to establish a new scholarship program to be administered by the Virgin Islands Board of Education. The Legislature is slated to appropriate an amount the institution deems pertinent to carry out the mandate of this legislation if passed. The amount may not exceed **\$10,000** per year. While the Post Audit Division supports this very important educational initiative the bill fails to identify a funding source, so therefore analysis on this area is incomplete. If a sustainable funding source is identified then, the Post Audit Division recommends the approval of this measure.



Wendell M. Gaskin, CFE

Post Auditor