

Legislature of the U.S. Virgin Islands



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Committee on Education & Workforce Development

Monday, June 17, 2024

10:00 AM

Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room
St. Croix, USVI

Meeting Agenda

BLOCK I:

The Committee will receive testimony from the Virgin Islands Department of Education on data and information received from all public school principals during the Year-End School Data Review Presentation for SY23-24; including but not limited to the following: enrollment statistics, academic performance data, financial overview, classroom configurations for SY24-25, technology resources, accomplishments linked to School Improvement Plans, and challenges or obstacles encountered during the SY23-24.

The Committee will also receive testimony from the Virgin Islands Board of Education on its assessment of the SY23-24 and its recommendations to improve the quality of education for the upcoming school year.

The St. Croix Public School Parent Coalition will present concerns that have been identified by public school students, parents/guardians, and staff including the following prioritized issues: teacher shortages, a lack of academic programming, equipment maintenance, bullying/behavior management, transparent communications, and internet connectivity.

Invited Testifiers:

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

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

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

BLOCK II:

The Committee will hear testimony for, against, or neither for or against the following legislation:

Bill No. 35-0252, "An Act amending Title 17 Virgin Islands Code by adding a chapter 44A, relating to the establishment of the Virgin Islands High School Graduation Plan Act, to assist students to graduate from high school and successfully transition to post-secondary education, to the workforce, or to the military." **Proposed by Senator Diane T. Capehart**

CHAIRPERSON

Committee on Education
& Workforce Development

VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Committee on Housing, Transportation
& Telecommunications

SECRETARY

Intergovernmental Relations
& Territorial Affairs

MEMBER

Committee on Disaster Recovery
& Infrastructure/DPNR
Committee on Health, Hospitals
& Human Services
Committee on Rules & Judiciary

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Invited Testifiers:

Honorable Dr. Dionne Wells-Hedrington, Commissioner, Virgin Islands Department of Education
Honorable Justa E. Encarnacion, Commissioner, Virgin Islands Department of Health
Honorable Averil George, Commissioner, Virgin Islands Department of Human Services
Honorable Gary Molloy, Commissioner, Virgin Islands Department of Labor
Dwayne Alexander, Executive Director, Virgin Islands Housing Authority
Dr. Kyza Callwood, Chairman, Virgin Islands Board of Education
Angus Drigo, Executive Director, Disability Rights Center of the Virgin Islands

[Bill No. 35-0270](#), “An Act amending Title 17 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 9, subchapter I, requiring the Commissioner of the Virgin Islands Department of Education to establish, maintain, and administer a school suspension program for students who are suspended from a public school for three or more school days.” **Proposed by Senator Diane T. Capehart**

Invited Testifiers:

Honorable Dr. Dionne Wells-Hedrington, Commissioner, Virgin Islands Department of Education
Honorable Justa E. Encarnacion, Commissioner, Virgin Islands Department of Health
Honorable Averil George, Commissioner, Virgin Islands Department of Human Services
Honorable Gary Molloy, Commissioner, Virgin Islands Department of Labor
Dwayne Alexander, Executive Director, Virgin Islands Housing Authority
Dr. Kyza Callwood, Chairman, Virgin Islands Board of Education
Angus Drigo, Executive Director, Disability Rights Center of the Virgin Islands

BLOCK III:

The Committee will hear testimony for, against, or neither for or against the following legislation:

[Bill No. 35-0240](#), “An Act transferring the administration of the Government Insurance Fund from the Commissioner of the Virgin Islands Department of Finance to the Commissioner of Virgin Islands Department of Labor and amending various sections of Title 24 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 11 to facilitate better recovery for injury or disease that arises out of and in the course of employment in the Virgin Islands under the Workers’ Compensation Administration, and to ensure that workers entitled to Workers’ Compensation benefits receive medical coverage, rehabilitation services, and disability compensation without undue delay by merging the benefits and payment components of the Workers’ Compensation Insurance Program.” **Proposed by Senator Novelle E. Francis, Jr.**

Invited Testifiers:

Honorable Kevin McCurdy, Commissioner, Virgin Islands Department of Finance
Honorable Gary Molloy, Commissioner, Virgin Islands Department of Labor