



# Legislature of the Virgin Islands

Office of Senator Kenneth L. Gittens

Capitol Building, Charlotte Amalie, VI 00804 • 3022 Golden Rock, Christiansted, VI 00820

**Kenneth L. Gittens**  
Senate Majority Leader

## COMMITTEES

Homeland Security,  
Justice & Public  
Safety

*Chairperson*

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Health, Hospitals &  
Human Services

*Vice-Chair*

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Rules & Judiciary

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Disaster Recovery,  
Infrastructure &  
Planning

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Government  
Operations, Veterans  
Affairs, & Consumer  
Protection

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Committee of the  
Whole

*Member*

**TO:** Honorable Ray Fonseca, *Vice-Chair*  
Honorable Angel Bolques, Jr.  
Honorable Dwayne M. DeGraff  
Honorable Alma Francis-Heyliger  
Honorable Javan E. James, Sr.  
Honorable Franklin D. Johnson

**FROM:** Senator Kenneth L. Gittens   
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security, Justice and Public Safety

**DATED:** August 2, 2024

**RE:** COMMITTEE HEARING AGENDA  
*Scheduled Hearing - 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, August 14, 2024*

Please be advised that the 35<sup>th</sup> Legislature's Committee on Homeland Security, Justice, & Public Safety has scheduled a legislative committee hearing for **10:00 am, Wednesday, August 14, 2024, in the Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room, located on St. Croix.**

The agenda is as follows:

### **BLOCK I – 10:00 a.m.**

**Bill 35-0031** - An Act amending title 5, V.I.C., subtitle 3, part I, by adding a new chapter 301A, creating the Child Victims' and Child Witnesses' Rights Act and repealing chapter 301, subchapter IV, section 3510.

*Sponsored by Senator Angel L. Bolques Jr.*

**Department of Justice Operational Status Update:** This update intends to provide a comprehensive overview of the current operational status of the Department of Justice. Key highlights will include but not be limited to an update on caseloads, encompassing criminal, civil matters and white-collar crimes and on the construction of the new morgue on St. Croix.

**Comm. on Homeland Security, Justice & Public Safety**  
**RE: Hearing Agenda – Wednesday, August 14, 2024**

Invited Testifiers:

<b>Testifiers</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Department/Agency</b>
Gordon Rhea, Esq	Attorney General Nominee	Department of Justice
Honorable Averil George	Commissioner	Department of Human Services
Dr. Clema Lewis	Director	Women’s Coalition of St. Croix
Darian Torrice-Hairston	Director	Nana Baby Children’s Home

**BLOCK II – 1:30 p.m.**

**Bill No 35-0031** – An Act amending title 20 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 43, subchapter I by adding a section 494b establishing school speed zones, signage, and enforcement measures to promote student and pedestrian safety near schools.

*Sponsored by Senators Angel L. Bolques, Jr. and Milton E. Potter.*

**Department of Public Works, Office of Highway Safety, and Traffic Investigation Bureau Operational Status Update:** This update intends to provide an overview of the current operational status of the Department of Public Works and the VIPD’s Office of Highway Safety and Traffic Investigation Bureau. The update will include, but not be limited to any ongoing projects, key initiatives aimed at enhancing roadway safety and infrastructure. Additionally, information on progress made in traffic investigations and plans for future improvements will be discussed.

Invited Testifiers:

<b>Testifiers</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Department/Agency</b>
Honorable Derek Gabriel	Commissioner	Department of Public Works
Honorable Dionne Wells-Hedrington	Commissioner	Department of Education
Mario Brooks	Acting Commissioner	VI Police Department
Elise P. Menzies	Principal	St. Croix Christian Academy

cc: All Employees  
All Senators  
Media