

R. OLIVER DAVID AAG/Director DGE

Testimony on Amendment 35-756 to Bill 35-0179, December 11, 2024

Good afternoon Committee Chairman Kenneth Gittens other senators present. I am R. Oliver David an Assistant Attorney General and Director of the Division of Gaming Enforcement with the Virgin Islands Department of Justice.

The Department is pleased to be here this afternoon to offer brief testimony on Amendment 35-756 to Bill 35-0179.

The Department has reviewed the referenced amendment and accompanying Bill and did not find any issues with the amendments to the existing law. The Department agrees that a clear definition of what a "Lottery" means as outlined in Section 1221 and the inclusion of specific games such as parlay and numbers game, which fall under the definition of Lottery, will assist in the investigation and prosecution of violators of the Virgin Islands gambling laws.

Finally, the Department is also thankful for any funds appropriated to it, which is derived from its involvement in pursuing the enforcement of violations of the Virgin Islands gambling laws. However, The Department believes that paragraph (f) page 3 needs some clarification.

Pursuant to paragraph (f), 49% of all funds derived goes to the DOJ, 51% goes to the VI Lottery and 2% is to be used for programs to treat and prevent gambling addiction. Additionally, the language is unclear as to which entity will be responsible distributing the funds and how will the funds be distributed.