

BILL NO. 35-0046

Thirty-Fifth Legislature of the Virgin Islands

February 27, 2023

An Act amending title 20 Virgin Islands Code, part II, chapter 43, subchapter I to establish parking for expectant mothers or mothers with newborns

PROPOSED BY: Senator Franklin D. Johnson

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:

SECTION 1. Title 20 Virgin Islands Code, part II, chapter 43, subchapter I is amended by adding Section 497g. to read as follows:

“§ 497g. Reserved parking for expectant and new mothers.

(a)(1) Any individual, business entity, or other organization and the Government of the Virgin Islands, including semi-autonomous instrumentalities, transacting business with the public, which owns or leases a parking lot that has 50 or more parking spaces, must reserve at least one parking space, located as closely as possible to parking spaces designated for persons with disabilities, for the exclusive use by expectant and new mothers. The Police Commissioner shall designate the total number of parking spaces which must be reserved for expectant and new mothers parking in all parking lots that are subject to this section.

(2) The parking spaces designated for expectant and new mothers parking must have a clearly visible sign erected and marked “Reserved for Expectant and New Mothers, Parking by Permit Only, \$500.00 Minimum Fine.”

1 (b) The Director of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (“Director”) shall issue an
2 Expectant and New Mother Parking Permit Placard (“Parking Permit”) upon
3 payment of the applicable fee established by the Director.

4 (c) To qualify for a Parking Permit, an expectant or new mother must submit
5 an application, as prescribed and furnished by the Director, and a written statement
6 from a medical professional that verifies that she is pregnant and provides an
7 expected due date or the certified birth certificate of her infant who is under one
8 year of age. The Parking Permit may not exceed one year post-pregnancy and the
9 Parking Permit must clearly state the expiration date. For pregnant women, the
10 Director shall establish the expiration date for the Parking Permit by adding 12
11 months from the expected due date indicated by the medical professional who is
12 treating the expectant mother. For new mothers, the Director shall establish the
13 expiration date for the Parking Permit by adding 12 months from the date she gave
14 birth.

15 (d) The Parking Permit must be prominently displayed by placing the
16 Parking Permit on the front windshield rearview mirror when that vehicle is parked
17 in a space reserved for expectant and new mothers’ parking.

18 (e) A vehicle parked in a space reserved for expectant and new mothers
19 parking must either be operated by or occupied by the holder of the Parking Permit.

20 (f) Any person who parks in a parking space designated for expectant and
21 new mothers without a Parking Permit affixed to the vehicle is subject to a
22 minimum fine of \$500.

23 **SECTION 2.** Title 20 Virgin Islands Code, part II, chapter 43, subchapter I,
24 section 512 is amended by inserting after the line for “T 20, 497(d), Parking in
25 handicapped zone” a line that reads: “T 20, 497g, Parking in space for expectant
26 and new mothers-1st FEE - \$500.00; 2nd FEE and 3rd FEE – Must appear in Court.”

1 **SECTION 3.** Title 20 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 43, subchapter I, section
2 513 is amended by adding a paragraph (5) that reads as follows:

3 “(5) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, all fines collected
4 pursuant to section 497g of this subchapter must be distributed as follows: 25
5 percent to the Women’s Coalition of St. Croix, 25% to the Family Resource Center,
6 Inc. and 50% to the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands.”

7 **SECTION 4.** This act takes effect 90 days after enactment.”

8 **BILL SUMMARY**

9 This bill amends title 20 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 43, subchapter I by adding a section
10 497g which requires the Government of the Virgin Islands, including semi-autonomous
11 instrumentalities; and any individual, business entity, or other organization transacting business
12 with the public; that owns or leases a parking lot that has 50 or more parking spaces, to have at
13 least one parking space, located as closely as possible to parking spaces designated for persons
14 with disabilities, reserved for the exclusive use by expectant and new mothers. The parking
15 spaces designated for expectant and new mothers’ parking will have a clearly visible sign
16 erected and marked “Reserved for Expectant and New Mothers, Parking by Permit Only, \$500
17 Minimum Fine.”

18 The Director of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles will issue an Expectant and New Mother
19 Parking Permit upon payment of the applicable fee established by the Director. To qualify for
20 a Parking Permit, an individual must submit an application, as prescribed and furnished by the
21 Director, and a written statement from a medical professional that verifies the female is
22 pregnant and providing an expected due date or within the first year of post-pregnancy. The
23 Parking Permit cannot exceed one-year post-pregnancy and the Parking Permit must clearly
24 state the expiration date. The Parking Permit must be prominently displayed on the vehicle
25 and a vehicle parked in a space reserved for expectant and new mothers parking must either be
26 operated by or occupied by the holder of the Parking Permit.

1 Any person who parks in a parking space designated for expectant and new mothers
2 without a Parking Permit affixed to the vehicle will be subject to a minimum fine of \$500. The
3 fines collected pursuant to this section will be distributed as follows: 25% to the Women’s
4 Coalition of St. Croix, 25% to the Family Resource Center, Inc. and 50% to the Superior Court
5 of the Virgin Islands.”

6 **BR23-0360/February 22, 2023/GC**