
**TESTIMONY ON
BILL 35-0086**

**LEGISLATURE
OF THE
UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS**



NOVEMBER 8, 2023
COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY, JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Good day, Honorable Senator Kenneth L. Gittens, Chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security, Justice and Public Safety, other committee members and Senators present in the Chambers and virtually, other testifiers, and the viewing and listening public.

I am Kurell A. Sheridan, JD, Executive Director of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands. Today, Mr. Norman Edwards, Director of Human Resources, accompanies me.

I have been asked to testify on amended Bill 35-0086. This bill seeks to amend Title 3, Virgin Islands Code, chapter 1, section 10h to require background checks for all IT personnel and employees of the Bureau of Information Technology, agencies that have data centers, and any employee who handles classified information.

I commend the bill sponsor, Senator Dwayne DeGraff, for acting on the feedback received when this bill was first heard. The testimonies received at that time raised issues related to recidivism, background checks, evaluation criteria, and the need to fund cyber security safeguards. The bill sponsor has duly evaluated those considerations; some are addressed in the amendment. While the Legislature firmly believes that policy should accompany this bill, the Legislature is not opposed to the bill as amended.

I thank the Senate and the public for the opportunity to discuss Bill No. 35-0086, as amended, as again, this legislation represents a forward movement towards improved information security within our government. This concludes my testimony. Mr. Edwards and I are available to answer any questions you may have.