



VITEMA

TESTIFIER: Stephen M. DeBlasio, Sr., Assistant
Director

35th Legislature of the Virgin Islands

Committee on Homeland Security, Justice,
and Public Safety
November 9, 2023

Bill No. 35-0086 - An Act amending 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 confidential information.

2 Good morning, Senator Kenneth L. Gittens, Chairman, Committee on Homeland
3 Security, Justice, and Public Safety, other committee members and members of
4 the 35th Legislature, legislative staff, and those in the viewing and listening
5 audience. I am Stephen M. DeBlasio, Sr., Assistant Director of the Virgin Islands
6 Territorial Emergency Management Agency (VITEMA). Thank you for allowing
7 us to come before you today to provide comment and information on Bill No. 35-
8 0086.

9 VITEMA has no objections to this bill as we understand that maintaining the
10 confidentiality of sensitive information is critical to the work of the many law
11 enforcement agencies, centers, and partners of the Government of the Virgin
12 Islands. As to which department should be responsible for conducting the
13 background checks, we defer to the expertise of our professional colleagues
14 present today.

15 In conclusion, Mister Chairman, VITEMA appreciates and supports the efforts of
16 this body to address and support the vital work of this agency, specifically the
17 Virgin Islands Fusion Center.

18 Thank you and I stand ready to answer any questions that this Committee may
19 have to the best of my ability.