



GOVERNMENT OF
THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS
THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

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TESTIMONY OF JENIFER O'NEAL
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BUDGET, APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCE
OF THE 35TH LEGISLATURE OF THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS
HONORABLE DONNA FRETT-GREGORY
APRIL 04, 2023 10:00 A.M.

Good Morning Chairperson Donna Frett-Gregory, members of the Committee on Budget, Appropriations & Finance, other Senators of the 35th Legislature of the U.S. Virgin Islands, and members of the listening and viewing audience. I am Monique Ferrell, Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget and I'm here on behalf of Director Jenifer O'Neal, who is unable to appear today.

I appear before you to present the Office of Management and Budget's position on Bill No. 35-0054 - An Act amending Title 1 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 7, section 103b, relating to the Centennial Living Treasures Award Program.

As currently enacted, subsection c of the referenced law authorizes the Commissioner of the Department of Human Services to award a grant of \$4,000 to a centenarian on their 100th birthday, and upon the centenarian's death, award \$1,000 to the family towards the centenarian's burial expenses.

Bill No. 35-0054 proposes amending the law to present a one-time lumpsum grant in the amount of \$5,000 to the centenarian upon their 100th birthday.

This amendment does not have any tangible financial implications, in that the total expenditure is \$5,000 whether in a lumpsum payment or in two separate payments. However, when the cost of maintaining a system to track the birthday and then subsequent death of a centenarian is considered, as well as the cost of processing the transaction(s) necessary to issue a second payment, there is an additional unquantifiable cost, as well as the precious resource of time, which can be eliminated if the \$5,000 grant is awarded in a one-time lumpsum payment to the centenarian. Further, awarding a lumpsum grant reduces the potential for inadvertently missing the second payment and having a negative impact on the family of the centenarian, as well as on the reputation of the Government of the Virgin Islands.

Madam Chair, this concludes my testimony on Bill No. 35-0054. I remain available to answer any questions that the members of this Body may have.