

COMMITTEE ON BUDGET, APPROPRIATIONS AND  
FINANCE

09/19/2023-REPORTED OUT TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JUDICIARY

**BILL NO. 35-0148**

**Thirty-Fifth Legislature of the Virgin Islands**

**September 19, 2023**

An Act providing an appropriation for the operation of the Judicial Branch of the Government of the Virgin Islands, the Judicial Council, and the Office of the Territorial Public Defender during the fiscal year October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024 and amending title 5, chapter 302 of the Virgin Islands Code regarding the name of the Office of the Territorial Public Defender

---

**PROPOSED BY:** Senators Novelle E. Francis, Jr., Donna A. Frett-Gregory and  
Dwayne M. DeGraff by Request of the Governor

---

1 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:*

2       **SECTION 1.** The following sums are appropriated from the General Fund of the  
3 Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands for operating expenses in the fiscal year  
4 starting October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024, to the following entities:

5	<b>0100 GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>FY 2024</b>
6	JUDICIAL COUNCIL	\$ 130,620
7	VIRGIN ISLANDS JUDICIARY AND COURT SYSTEM	\$ 42,500,000
8	OFFICE OF THE TERRITORIAL PUBLIC DEFENDER	\$ 5,632,220
9	<b>TOTAL 0100 GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>\$ 48,262,840</b>

1           **SECTION 2.** Title 5 Virgin Islands Code, part I, chapter 302, subchapters I and II,  
2 sections 3520 - 3523, 3524a, 3525, and 3527 are amended by inserting “the Territorial”  
3 before “Public Defender” wherever it appears.

4   **BILL SUMMARY**

5           Section 1 of this bill provides for a \$48,262,840 appropriation from the General Fund  
6 of the Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands, of which \$130,620 is appropriated  
7 to fund the Judicial Council, \$42,500,000 to fund the Virgin Islands Judiciary and Court  
8 System, and \$5, 632,220 to fund the Office of the Public Defender for the fiscal year ending  
9 September 30, 2024. Section 2 amends various sections of title 5 Virgin Islands Code,  
10 chapter 302, subchapters I and II to rename the Office of the Public Defender, the Office of  
11 the Territorial Public Defender.

12   **BR23-0786/BUDGET/September 15, 2023**