



**LEGISLATURE OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS**  
**35<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE, THE HONORABLE SENATOR DIANE T. CAPEHART**


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**Chair**  
**Vice Chair**  
**Member**

**Committee on Rules & Judiciary**  
 Committee on Disaster Recovery & Infrastructure  
 Committees on Health, Hospitals, and Human Services  
 Committee on Education and Workforce Development  
 Committee on Economic Development & Agriculture  
 Subcommittee on Health and Public Safety

**REVISED**

**TO:** All Members, Committee on Rules and Judiciary  
 Honorable Milton E. Potter, Vice Chairman  
 Honorable Angel L. Bolques, Jr.  
 Honorable Kenneth L. Gittens  
 Honorable Marise C. James  
 Honorable Franklin D. Johnson  
 Honorable Carla J. Joseph

**FROM:** The Honorable Senator Diane T. Capehart   
 Chair, Committee on Rules and Judiciary

**DATE:** December 9, 2024

**RE:** Committee on Rules and Judiciary Meeting— Thursday December 12, 2024

The Committee on Rules and Judiciary has scheduled a meeting for *Thursday, December 12, 2024, at 9:30 AM in the Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room, St. Croix, Virgin Islands* to consider the following *nominations and bills*:

**BLOCK I**

- Governor’s Nomination of Tahmin O. Clarke, Board Nominee  
 US Virgin Islands GERS Board of Trustees – St. Thomas District

**BLOCK II**

- Governor’s Nomination of Aubrey L. Ruan, Jr., Board Nominee  
 Virgin Islands Coastal Zone Management Commission

**BLOCK III**

- Governor’s Nomination of Mario Brooks, Commissioner Nominee  
 Virgin Islands Police Department

**BLOCK IV**

**Bill No. 35-0224** - An Act amending title 19, part V, chapter 45, subchapter VI to increase access to behavioral health services, with a focus on a Psychiatric Emergency Response Team to provide mobile crisis intervention services, and the 9-8-8 telecommunication system. *Sponsored by Senators Diane T. Capehart and Ray Fonseca*

### **Invited Testifiers**

- Justa Encarnacion,  
Commissioner  
Department of Health
- Hazel Philbert,  
Interim Chief Executive Officer  
Gov. Juan F. Luis Hospital and Medical  
Center
- Tina Comissiong,  
Chief Executive Officer  
Schneider Regional Medical Center
- Sandra Setorie  
Executive Director  
Virgin Islands Public Service  
Commission

### **BLOCK V**

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**Bill No. 35-0336** - An Act amending title 5 Virgin Islands Code, subtitle 3, part I by establishing the Office of Conflict Counsel, granting personal immunity to individuals providing legal representation or services to indigent defendants, and making an appropriation to establish the Office of Conflict Counsel. *Sponsored by Senator Novelle E. Francis, Jr.*

### **Invited Testifiers**

- Paul Gimenez  
General Counsel  
Judiciary of the Virgin Islands
- Alisha Udwhani, Esq.,  
Chair  
Supreme Court's Standing  
Committee on Indigent Appointments
- Attorney Gordon Rhea  
Attorney General,  
Department of Justice
- Marjorie V. Whalen  
President  
Virgin Islands Bar
- Shelby Gaddy, Esq.  
Executive Director  
Legal Services of the  
Virgin Islands
- Julie Smith-Todman, Esq.  
Chief Territorial Public Defender  
Virgin Islands Office of the Public Defender

**Bill No. 35-0399** - An Act amending title 16 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 2, section 99 establishing a mandatory minimum bail amount in domestic violence cases. *Sponsored by Senator Angel L. Bolques, Jr.*

### **Invited Testifier**

- Attorney Gordon Rhea  
Attorney General  
Department of Justice

## **BLOCK VI**

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**Bill No. 35-0410** - An Act honoring and commending Mr. Salvador “Sal” Sanpere for his dedication and contribution to St. Croix by naming the Christiansted boardwalk in his honor. *Sponsored by Senator Samuel Carrion*

### **Invited Testifier**

- Willard John  
Resident

**Bill No. 35-0411** - An Act honoring and commending Georgia Francis for her community service and for her contributions to the youth of the Virgin Islands in the area of music and renaming the portion of Rumer Drive beginning at Mandela Circle and continuing to the bottom of the Dorothy “Dotsy” Lockhart-Elskoe Drive, the “Georgia Francis Drive”. *Sponsored by Senator Dwayne M. DeGraff*

### **Invited Testifiers**

- Dion Parsons  
Resident
- Lesley Comissiong  
Resident
- Dionne R. Donadelle  
Resident

## **BLOCK VII**

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**Bill No. 35-0179** - An Act amending title 14 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 61, relating to gambling violations, and title 32 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 13, relating to the Virgin Islands Lottery Commission, to strengthen the enforcement tools against illegal gambling and lottery. *Sponsored by Senators Diane T. Capehart and Angel L. Bolques (Pending Committee on Homeland Security, Public Safety and Justice – Wednesday December 11, 2024)*

**Bill No. 35-0254** - An Act amending title 27 Virgin Islands Code by adding chapter 21A establishing the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact. *Sponsored by Senator Diane T. Capehart*

**Bill No. 35-0295** - An Act amending title 19 Virgin Islands Code, part III, chapter 29 requiring the Virgin Islands Department of Health to establish and administer the “Virgin Islands Prescription Drug Monitoring Program” to provide prescription drug monitoring, and for other related purposes. *Sponsored by Senator Donna Frett-Gregory.*

**Bill No. 35-0318** - An Act amending title 5 Virgin Islands Code, subtitle 3, part I, chapter 311 by enacting Jah’niqua’s Law requiring a defendant to pay restitution in the form of child maintenance if the victim of the offense was the parent or guardian of a minor child or dependent and if the defendant was convicted of negligent homicide by means of a motor vehicle, a violation of title 20 Virgin Islands Code, section 504, while under the influence of or affected by intoxicating liquor or narcotic drugs; or was convicted of driving under the influence of intoxicating liquors or controlled substances, a violation of title 20 Virgin Islands Code, section 493, which results in an accident that causes the victim to become disabled or totally and permanently disabled. *Sponsored by Senator Kenneth L. Gittens (Pending Committee on Homeland Security, Public Safety and Justice – Wednesday December 11, 2024)*

**Bill No. 35-0408** - An Act requiring the Department of Health and the Department of Planning and Natural Resources to develop and administer a Territorial Regulated Medical Waste

Management Plan including the requisite regulations. *Sponsored by Senator Donna A. Frett-Gregory*

**Bill No. 35-0409** - An Act to amend title 20 Virgin Islands Code, part II, chapter 32, subchapter I to amend the definition of “salvage vehicle purchaser” or “junk vehicle purchaser” to include businesses that includes junk and salvage vehicle businesses and insurance companies and to require salvage vehicle purchasers to file a report with the Bureau of Motor Vehicles that documents the salvage vehicles obtained and sold during a given time period, and to require a penalty for failure to file the report. *Sponsored by Senator Samuel Carrion (Pending Committee on Homeland Security, Public Safety and Justice – Wednesday December 11, 2024)*

**Bill No. 35-0416** - An Act repealing and reenacting Title 20 Virgin Islands Code, part II, chapter 43, section 512 increasing penalties for traffic violations; establishing a Virgin Islands Police Department Impound Lot: and for other related purposes. *Sponsored by Senator Kenneth L. Gittens (Pending Committee on Homeland Security, Public Safety and Justice – Wednesday December 11, 2024)*

**Bill No. 35-0419** - An Act amending title 23, Virgin Islands Code, chapter 5 by enacting the “Virgin Islands Firearm Serial Number Regulation Act.” *Sponsored by Senator Kenneth L. Gittens (Pending Committee on Homeland Security, Public Safety and Justice – Wednesday December 11, 2024)*

Cc: All Senators  
All Chiefs of Staff  
All Divisions  
Public Affairs  
Media