



**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 V**

**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

**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. 35-0336** - 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  
Office of the Territorial 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 V

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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
- Nancy Torres  
Resident
- John Harper  
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 VI

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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*

**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. 35-0408** - 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*

**Bill No. 35-0419** – An Act amending title 27 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 1A by establishing the Virgin Islands Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology. *Sponsored by Senator Diane T. Capehart*

**Bill No. 35-0420** - 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*

**Bill No. 35-0425** – An Act to amend various sections of title 5 Virgin Islands Code. *Sponsored by Senator Diane T. Capehart*

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

