



LEGISLATURE OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS
35TH 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 VI

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. 35-0419 – 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. 35-0336 - 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

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

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. 35-0420 - 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