

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS, USVI INC
Comments on Bill 35-0227 { PG 1 OF 1}

BILL Amends Title 3 chapter 37 to enact the VI Commission on Ethics and Conflicts of Interest

Section 1108 (a): Membership.

Concern:The LWV VI finds the composition to be heavily influenced by the Governor and the Chief Judge of the VI Supreme Court in that of the 5 members of the Commission both Governor and Judge are authorized to identify 4 members and the Legislature 1 member.

Rationale: The membership should be more broadly selected to avoid undue influence by any of the public officials at the highest levels of government.

Recommendation: LWV VI recommends that the membership be expanded to 7 (seven) members as follows:

Governor, Chief Judge of the Supreme Court and the Legislature each appoint one person; .Governor and Chief Judge each nominate one private citizen; the Bar Association nominates one person from the Bar membership; UVI nominates one Human Resource administrator

(b). Strike “two members who are jointly appointed by the Governor and Chief Justice” and insert “other four members shall serve a full term of five years”.

Rationale: This is in keeping with the recommendation above regarding the number of members being expanded to seven.

(g) insert after advance written notice must be “ distributed by post mail and electronic mail to each member, and, in keeping with the Sunshine Act, must be done at least seven days in advance, except in the case of a verifiable emergency”

(h) concern: LWV VI is concerned that there are no guidelines for what constitutes meaningful time spent that qualify for the reimbursement of \$200.

Recommendation: insert after must be compensated at a rate of \$200 a day “ for meetings of the Commission, its committees and subcommittees and for related work of no less than two hours per day that is approved or verified by the Executive Director”

(j) eliminate last sentence so the Commission remains independent of the AG.

=====END of Testimony on Bill 35-0227===== July 17, 2024