COMMITTEE ON BUDGET, APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCE

09/26/2024-REPORTED OUT TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JUDICIARY W/CLOSED RULE

BILL NO. 35-0378

Thirty-Fifth Legislature of the Virgin Islands

September 26, 2024

An Act appropriating funds for the adoption of various portions of the Virgin Islands Agricultural Plan for fiscal year ending September 30, 2025

PROPOSED BY: Senators Novelle E. Francis, Jr., and Donna A. Frett-Gregory

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

SECTION 1. The sum of \$250,000 is appropriated from General Fund of the Treasury
of the Government of the Virgin Islands in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, to the
Agriculture Business Center within the Small Business Development Center for operating
expenses.

6 SECTION 2. The sum of \$250,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund of the 7 Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, 8 to the University of the Virgin Islands Office of Sponsored Programs for obtaining major 9 federal grants to address water, irrigation, or infrastructure and other agriculture needs for the 10 Virgin Islands.

SECTION 3. The sum of \$383,000 is appropriated from the General Fund of the
Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025,
to the University of the Virgin Islands' Office of Sponsored Program.

SECTION 4. The sum of \$150,000 is appropriated from the General Fund of the
 Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025,
 to the University of the Virgin Islands for the Eastern Caribbean Center for data collection.

SECTION 5. The sum of \$500,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund of the
Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025,
to the Virgin Islands Economic Development Authority to establish a Public-Private
Investment Fund and a Farmer's Grant Matching Fund in coordination with the Local Food
and Farm Advisory Committee.

SECTION 6. The sum of \$274,500.00 is appropriated from the General Fund of the
Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025,
to the University of the Virgin Islands for the operations of the Local Food and Farm Advisory
Committee to include the operations of the Local Food and Farm Advisory Committee
Operations, the Food Symbol Development and Marketing, Data Collection and Analysis, and
to create a short-term and long-term plan to address critical water and infrastructure needs, and
develop Organic agriculture in conjunction with the Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture.

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BILL SUMMARY

This bill appropriates the funds necessary for the adoption of various portions of theVirgin Islands Agricultural Plan.

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