

COMMITTEE ON BUDGET, APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCE

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

**BILL NO. 35-0379**

**Thirty-Fifth Legislature of the Virgin Islands**

**September 26, 2024**

An Act making various amendments to titles 3, 33 and 20 of the Virgin Islands Code and making various amendments to Acts No. 8717, 8585 and 8759

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**PROPOSED BY:** Senators Novelle E. Francis, Jr., and Donna A. Frett-Gregory  
Co-Sponsors Marvin A. Blyden and Dwayne M. DeGraff

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

2       **SECTION 1.** Title 3 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 25, subchapter V, section 559(f) is  
3 amended by striking “Suppression Unit of the”; by striking “and” after “control” and inserting  
4 “,” after “control”; and by inserting “and investigate” after “suppress”.

5       **SECTION 2.** Title 33 Virgin Islands Code, subtitle 1, chapter 3, section 42(e)(7)(A) is  
6 amended by inserting “, capital improvement project, capital project” after “project”; and by  
7 designating paragraph (B) as paragraph (C) and by inserting a new paragraph (B) that reads as  
8 follows: “(B) Articles, goods, merchandise, materials and commodities brought in by or for  
9 sale to a contractor of either government in conjunction with a public work project, capital  
10 improvement project, capital project or undertaking are subject to excise and trade taxes.”

11       **SECTION 3.** Act No. 8717, section 1 (a) is amended by striking “Department of  
12 Education, for budgetary purposes only,” and inserting “Office of the Governor”.

1           **SECTION 4.** Title 33 Virgin Islands Code, subtitle 3, chapter 111, section 3092a(c) is  
2 amended by inserting the following at the end of the section “Monies in this Fund may not be  
3 used for administrative purposes unless the Legislature of the Virgin Islands has made a specific  
4 appropriation for administrative purposes.”

5           **SECTION 5.** Act No. 8585 is amended by striking “for a portion of Parcel C Estate  
6 Nazareth No. 1 Red Hook Quarter, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, consisting of approximately 2  
7 US acres of land, as shown on PWD Drawing No. D9-1329-T77; and”.

8           **SECTION 6.** The Department of Property and Procurement shall include the land  
9 located at Parcel C Estate Nazareth, No. 1 Red Hook Quarter, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands,  
10 consisting of approximately two U.S. acres of land, as shown on PWD Drawing No. D9-1329-  
11 T77, in the development of the Estate Nazareth Sports Complex.

12           **SECTION 7.** Act No. 8759 is amended under C/CNTR AGENCY/MISC ITEM GVI  
13 AUTONOMOUS/SEMI-AUTONOMOUS/DIVISIONS line-item OMB UNION WAGE  
14 ADJUSTMENTS by inserting “FY24 to sunset 4/30/25” after “ADJUSTMENTS”.

15           **SECTION 8.** Title 33 Virgin Islands Code, subtitle 3, chapter 111, section 3100v the  
16 “Public School Construction and Renovation Fund” is repealed.

17           **SECTION 9.** Title 20 Virgin Islands Code, part II, chapter 33, section 331 is amended  
18 by designating the existing language as subsection (a) and adding a subsection (b) that reads as  
19 follows:

20           “(b) The Bureau of Motor Vehicles shall charge an annual Vehicle Disposal Fee of not  
21 less than \$7 for all motor vehicles, automobiles for hire, trailers, commercial trailers,  
22 motorcycles, ATVs, and any other vehicle that requires title and registration to be operated on  
23 the public roadway. The Bureau of Motor Vehicles shall deposit 80% of the monies collected  
24 for the Vehicle Disposal Fee to the General Fund of the Treasury of the Government of the

1 Virgin Islands and 20% to the Personalized License Plate Fund, codified at title 33 Virgin  
2 Islands Code, subtitle 3, chapter 111, section 3065.”

3 **SECTION 10.** Title 19 Virgin Islands Code, part VI, chapter 56B, section 1570m is  
4 amended as follows:

5 (a) by inserting “Vehicle” before the word “Disposal” in the section heading;

6 (b) in subsection (a) by inserting “Vehicle” before the word “Disposal”;

7 (c) in subsection (c) by inserting the following at the end of the section “All Vehicle  
8 Disposal Fees collected by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles.”;

9 (d) in subsection (d) by inserting “vehicles and” before “tires” in the first two instances  
10 it appears;

11 (e) in subsection (e) by striking “For a period not to exceed three years from the  
12 enactment date of this chapter” and by striking “existing” and inserting “vehicles and” before  
13 “tires.”

14 **SECTION 11.** Title 30 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 1, subchapter 1, section 25a(b) is  
15 amended by adding at the end of the section the following: “Monies appropriated by the  
16 Legislature of the Virgin Islands to public utilities are not gross operating revenues as defined  
17 in this section and may not be included in the calculation for annual assessment of utilities.”

18 **SECTION 12.** The sums remaining from the appropriation provided for in section 6(a)  
19 of Act No. 8717 is reappropriated to the General Fund of the Treasury of the Virgin Islands in  
20 the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, to cover the cost of the positions created and to be  
21 filled in the Bureau of School Construction and Maintenance.

22 **SECTION 13.** Acts No. 8757 and 8758 are amended by striking “2024” and inserting  
23 “2025”.

24 **SECTION 14.** Title 4 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 5, section 74a is amended by  
25 inserting “who completed at least 12 years of service as a Judge of the Superior or Supreme

1 Court, and are” after “Islands”; by striking “utilized as “Senior Sitting Judges” in the Superior  
2 Court” and inserting “assigned by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court to preside over a  
3 specific case or cases if all active judicial officers are unavailable due to conflict. In every case,  
4 before assigning a retired judge, the Chief Justice must certify that no active judicial officers  
5 are able to hear the specific matter due to conflict. All current Senior Sitting Judges who do  
6 not meet the years of service may complete their current caseload but may not be assigned any  
7 new cases.”

8 **SECTION 15.** Title 33 Virgin Islands Code, subtitle 3, chapter 111 section 3093 is  
9 amended as follows:

- 10 (a) in subsection (c)(1) by inserting “per student” after “\$15.00”;
- 11 (b) by inserting paragraph (3) that reads: “(3) Each fiscal year, each Superintendent must  
12 be allocated the sum of \$75,000 from the Fund to manage district related academics  
13 and social and emotional programs.”;
- 14 (c) in subsection (d) by inserting “Superintendent and” after “Each”; and
- 15 (d) in subsection (e) by inserting “Superintendent and” before “Principal” where it  
16 appears at the beginning of the second sentence.

17 **BR24-1326/BUDGET/September 20, 2024**