

THE HONORABLE SENATOR AVERY L. LEWIS

Legislative Secretary

36TH LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS



Chair: Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs, Consumer Protection

Vice Chair: Committee on Education and Workforce Development

Member: Committee on Rules and Judiciary
Committee on Youth, Aging, Sports, and Parks
Committee on Homeland Security, Justice and Public Safety
Committee of the Whole

REVISED AGENDA I

TO: All Members, Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs, and Consumer Protection

Members:

Senator Ray Fonseca
Senator Alma Francis Heyliger
Senator Novelle E. Francis, Jr.
Senator Kenneth L. Gittens
Senator Franklin D. Johnson
Senator Carla J. Joseph

FROM: The Honorable Senator Avery L. Lewis 
36th Legislature of the Virgin Islands

DATE: May 23, 2025

The Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs, and Consumer Protection has scheduled a meeting for **Friday, May 30, 2025, at 9:00 AM** in the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands to provide updates on the following:

BLOCK I: 9:00 A.M. - 10:30 A.M.

Bill #36-0053: An Act amending title 3 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 25, subchapter V, section 555b to increase the minimum annual salary for full time employees of the Government of the Virgin Islands, its semi-autonomous agencies and independent instrumentalities from \$27,040 to \$32,000.
Proposed by Senators Kurt A. Violet, Avery L. Lewis, and Hubert L. Frederick

INVITED TESTIFIER(S):

- Ms. Cindy L. Richardson, Director, Division of Personnel
- Mr. Julio Rhymer, Sr., Director, Office of Management and Budget
- Mr. Daniel Flippo, Director, United Steel Workers
- Mr. Gerard "Jerry" Jackson, Staff Representative

BLOCK II: 10:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

The Committee will receive testimony on the operations of the Virgin Islands Taxicab Commission including but not limited to enabling law and jurisdiction, current department challenges, a plan of action to resolve challenges and the following agencies:

- The growing trend of illegal taxi operators, operating large passenger vehicles while posing as legitimate taxi drivers or limousine operators;
- Unregulated operators that violate the law and pose a significant threat to public safety;
- The agency's staffing shortages; and
- Any other matters relative to the discussion of the status of the agency.

INVITED TESTIFIER(S):

- Ms. Melissa Smith, Acting Executive Director Virgin Islands Taxicab Commission
- Ms. Elizabeth Hansen Watley, Chairwoman, Virgin Islands Taxicab Commission Board

BREAK FOR LUNCH: 12:30 P.M. – 1:00 P.M.

BLOCK III: 1:00 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.

The Committee will receive testimony on the operations of the Office of Veterans Affairs including but not limited to enabling law and jurisdiction, its current challenges, a plan of action to resolve challenges and the following:

- Outcome of the efforts of the recent delegation's travels to Puerto Rico;
- Effects of President Donald Trump's Executive Orders on our territory; and
- Status of reimbursements due to local veterans, among other topics.

INVITED TESTIFIER(S):

- Mr. Patrick Farrell, Director, Virgin Islands Office of Veterans Affairs
-

BLOCK IV: 2:30 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

The Committee will receive testimony on the operations of the Virgin Islands Lottery including but not limited to enabling law and jurisdiction, its current challenges, a plan of action to resolve challenges and the following:

- The cybersecurity incident and the subsequent **data restoration process**; and
- Growth of the Virgin Islands Lottery System, among other topics.

INVITED TESTIFIER(S):

- Mr. Raymond J. Williams, Executive Director, Virgin Islands Lottery

cc: All Senators
All Chiefs of Staff
All Divisions
Public Affairs