

**BILL NO. 36-0114**

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

**July 10, 2025**

An act honoring and commending Dilsa Capdeville for her many contributions to the Virgin Islands community through her roles in various areas of social services and advocacy for abused women and children and to rename the Bolongo Bay Head Start Facility the ‘Dilsa Capdeville Head Start Facility’ in her honor

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**PROPOSED BY:** Senator Carla J. Joseph

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1       **WHEREAS**, Dilsa Capdeville was born on October 24, 1949, in Bronx, New York to  
2 Florice Alicia Corbiere Tones and Manuel Hippolyte Torres;

3       **WHEREAS**, Ms. Capdeville is the proud mother of three daughters Chanell, Lisa,  
4 Diandra and grandmother of Emmarie of Isaiah (Ziggy) Massey and Zoe Massey. She is the  
5 mother- in- law to Rodney Ivey and Isaiah Aubain Massey;

6       **WHEREAS**, Ms. Capdeville attended Saint Peter and Paul School from elementary to  
7 high school and graduated in 1967;

8       **WHEREAS**, in 1965 while in high school, Ms. Capdeville began social work at the  
9 former Department of Social Welfare;

10       **WHEREAS**, in 1967, Ms. Capdeville enrolled and attended the then College of the  
11 Virgin Islands for one year before relocating to Staten Island, New York to attend Wagner  
12 College;

13       **WHEREAS**, Ms. Capdeville graduated from Wagner College in 1972 with a bachelor’s  
14 degree in sociology and social work;

1           **WHEREAS**, in 1974, Ms. Capdeville continued her academic learning and obtained her  
2 master's degree in social work from New York University;

3           **WHEREAS**, in 1974, Ms. Capdeville returned to the Virgin Islands and began working  
4 at the Department of Social Welfare, rising up through the ranks from Student Case Aid, to  
5 Supervisor, to Assistant Director and finally to the position of Assistant Administrator of the  
6 Division of Children, Youth and Families, the position she held until her retirement from  
7 Department of Human Services;

8           **WHEREAS**, in 1978, while simultaneously working at the Department of Social  
9 Welfare, Ms. Capdeville began serving as the Territorial Child Abuse Specialist for the Virgin  
10 Islands;

11           **WHEREAS**, as the Territorial Child Abuse Specialist, Ms. Capdeville began a public  
12 awareness campaign, that included workshops and training for both public and parochial  
13 schools, agencies and the community in general and created the first Child Abuse Task Force  
14 in the Virgin Islands;

15           **WHEREAS**, the Territorial Child Abuse Task Force included commissioners, nurses,  
16 doctors, counselors, school personnel, and attorneys from all branches of the government;

17           **WHEREAS**, a special task force was formed with Attorney Denise George, Attorney  
18 Douglas Dick, former Territorial Court Judge George Eltman, and Ms. Capdeville to research  
19 and develop the child abuse statutes in the Virgin Islands. With technical assistance from the  
20 New York State Social Services Department, the task force was able to develop a child abuse  
21 statute for the Virgin Islands which is codified in the Virgin Islands Code;

22           **WHEREAS**, in 1994, the Child Abuse Task Force held the first Caribbean conference  
23 on child sexual abuse in St Thomas with over 600 attendees from the Caribbean and the United  
24 States;

25           **WHEREAS**, in March 1981, Ms. Capdeville was instrumental in the development of the  
26 Women's Resource Center on St. Thomas, presently named Family Resource Center, where

1 she began working as a domestic violence therapist working with victims of violence and  
2 survivors of homicide. In addition, she continued to work with families with children being  
3 abused, molested and neglected and conducted groups meetings for students who were  
4 experiencing challenges in their lives;

5 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Capdeville continuously worked closely with the U.S. Attorney  
6 General, the Virgin Islands Attorney General, the Virgin Islands Police Department, and the  
7 Virgin Islands Departments of Health, Education, and Human Services to ensure that children  
8 and families in the Virgin Islands are being adequately served;

9 **WHEREAS**, in 1997, Ms. Capdeville started KIDSCOPE on St. Thomas which was the  
10 first child advocacy center in the Caribbean. Before closing in 2020, KIDSCOPE provided  
11 forensic interviews of children, consultation, guardian ad litem advocacy for children, agency  
12 mobilization services, counseling, and after care services for children;

13 **WHEREAS**, from 1983 to 1984, Ms. Capdeville taught courses in social work at the  
14 University of the Virgin Islands;

15 **WHEREAS**, from 1990 to 1995, Ms. Capdeville taught the course “Domestic Violence  
16 and the Role of Public Safety in the Protection of Victims” at the Virgin Islands Police  
17 Academy for new recruits;

18 **WHEREAS**, on April 2, 2009, Ms. Capdeville was bestowed with the “Administration  
19 of Children, Youth and Families Commissioner’s Award” in Washington DC. This award is  
20 presented to the individual in each state and territory who exemplifies dedication and  
21 commitment in the prevention of child abuse and neglect whose efforts in the prevention of  
22 such abuse are exceptional and whose spirit is an inspiration to others;

23 **WHEREAS**, on February 21, 1990, Ms. Capdeville became the first woman honored by  
24 the Rotary Club on St. Thomas to receive their “Man of the Year” award;

25 **WHEREAS**, Ms. Capdeville is a member of the organization “We From Up Street Inc.”  
26 and chairs the organization’s Health and Wellness Committee.;

