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Good afternoon Senator Avery Lewis, Chairman of the Committee on Government Operations, Veterans' Affairs, and Consumer Protection; distinguished committee members; other members of the Senate; and members of the listening and viewing public.

My name is Raymond J. Williams, Executive Director of the Virgin Islands Lottery along with my very able Deputy Executive Director-Ms. Shalyn Proctor. We appear before you today to participate in the discussion on Bill No. 36-0353 which would require the establishment of uniform governance, accountability, transparency, strategic planning, performance management, and community reinvestment requirements for public corporations, autonomous entities, and instrumentalities of the Government of the Virgin Islands (GVI).

The Virgin Islands Lottery has previously sought enactment of Bill No. 36-0233, an act to amend Title 32 of the Virgin Islands Code, Chapter 13, relating to the establishment and operation of the Virgin Islands Lottery.

The Virgin Islands Lottery has operated independently of Central Government for nearly its entire history and remains self-sustaining





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Unlike most government agencies, the Virgin Islands Lottery generates its own revenue, and funds its operations with no appropriations from the Central Government.

At the same time, the Virgin Islands Lottery fulfills statutory obligations through mandatory transfers to multiple Central Government agencies and the Government Employees' Retirement System (GERS). In addition to those required transfers, the Virgin Islands Lottery provides a supplement to the Office of Veterans' Affairs for that Office's designated purposes. Further, the Virgin Islands Lottery sets aside funding to support philanthropic contributions across the community, including initiatives in sports, music, the arts, and other programs and causes. In short, the Lottery has a longstanding record of investing in community support.

This legislation establishes a framework for uniform governance, accountability, transparency, strategic planning, performance management, and community reinvestment. I commend the bill's sponsor, Senator Hubert Frederick, for advancing this important measure.

The Virgin Islands Lottery has already undertaken many—if not most—of the elements reflected in this legislation. It has been my objective to strengthen and ensure continuity of government operations within the Lottery. We have





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collaborated with qualified local professionals to develop and implement these efforts, and we will continue to build upon and reinforce the goals highlighted in this bill.

I am ready to respond to any questions you may have.

