

STATEMENT OF
REGINA D. PETERSEN
ADMINISTRATOR OF COURTS
JUDICIAL BRANCH OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

ON

BILL NO. 36-0134

**BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS,
VETERAN'S AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

THIRTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

OCTOBER 27, 2025

Good day Chairman Lewis, Members of the Committee on Government Operations, Veteran's Affairs and Consumer Protection and other Members of the 36th Legislature present, Staff, and the listening public. I am Regina deChabert Petersen, Administrator of Courts, of the Judicial Branch of the Virgin Islands and I am here in response to this committee's request for testimony on Bill No. 36-0134.

The Judiciary did have an opportunity to meet with the Bill Sponsor, Senator Marise James, and shared that 4 VIC Sec. 27(b) provides with respect to Justices of the Supreme Court, that candidacy for public office automatically results in forfeiture of judicial office and that this section of the law could be referenced in the bill consistent with the exemptions for Judges and law clerks contained therein.

Otherwise, the Judiciary takes no position on the contents of the bill and offers no opinion regarding this proposed change in government policy. As a branch of government, the Judiciary will make appropriate adjustments regarding any conflicting internal policies which may exist should this bill become law.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this brief commentary on Bill No. 36-0134.