

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

AGENDA

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 116
36th Legislature of the Virgin Islands

DATE: October 16, 2025

The Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs, and Consumer Protection has scheduled a meeting for **Monday, October 27, 2025, at 9:00 AM** in the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands to provide testimony on the following bills:

BLOCK I: 9:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.

Bill No. 36-0134: An act repealing and reenacting title 18 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 1, section 2 relating to government employees' eligibility for elected offices, to allow government employees to run for political office while actively employed, unless specifically prohibited by federal or other laws *Proposed by Senator Marise C. James*

INVITED TESTIFIER(S):

- Justice Rhys S. Hodge, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands
- Ms. Cindy L. Richardson, Director Division of Personnel
- Attorney Joss N. Springette, Chief Negotiator, Office of Collective Bargaining
- Ms. Carol Burke, State Chairwoman, Democratic Party of the Virgin Islands

- Ms. Ophelia Jackson, Retired Government Educator

BLOCK II: 11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Bill No. 36-0148: An act amending title 3 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 16, section 274 by mandating that the Virgin Islands Taxicab Commission implement an electronic payment system. *Proposed by Senator Kurt A. Violet*

INVITED TESTIFIER(S):

- Ms. Melissa J. Smith, Acting Executive Director, Virgin Islands Taxicab Commission
- Mrs. Jennifer Matarangas-King, Commissioner Nominee, Virgin Islands Department of Tourism
- Ms. H. Nathalie Hodge, Commissioner, Department of Licensing & Consumer Affairs
- Mr. Lawrence Ramdhansingh, President, Virgin Islands Taxi Association
- Mr. John Cadasse, President, St. Croix Taxi Association (Airport)
- Mr. John Woods, President, St. Thomas St. John Chamber of Commerce
- Mr. Akeel St. Jean, Esq., Chairperson, St. Croix Chamber of Commerce

LUNCH BREAK: 1:00 P.M. – 1:30 P.M.

BLOCK III: 1:30 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.

Bill No. 36-0075: A Resolution honoring and commending Austin A. Venzen posthumously for his unwavering commitment to music education and the arts, through his work in the classrooms, conducting private music lessons, on the concert stages, and by bringing Virgin Islanders together in choirs, bands, and community events, to foster camaraderie, collaboration, and cultural enrichment *Proposed by Senator Ray Fonseca*

INVITED TESTIFIER(S):

- Ms. Gloria Quinlan, Former Music Professor & Choir Director, UVI
- Ms. Monet I. Davis, Former Student, Music Teacher Ivanna Eudora Kean High School
- Mr. Kevre Hendricks, Former Student, 73rd Army Band Commander, Director of Bands St. Croix Educational Complex, Music Producer & Owner of Maestro Productions
- Dr. LeRoy Trotman, Musicologist, Former Music Coordinator St. Thomas/St. John, Retired Professor of Music
- Mr. Odgen Noland, Music Educator Lockhart K-8
- Ms. Judith Mitchell, Personal Friend
- Mr. Levi Farrell, Former Student, Retired Band Instructor Ivanna Eudora Kean High School
- Mr. Dion Parson, Educator, Composer, and Grammy-Award-Winning Drummer

BLOCK IV: 3:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Bill No. 36-0044: A Resolution honoring and commending seven-year old twin brothers Kruz and Stefon Wilson for their heroic efforts and courage displayed when saving a drowning man at Magen's Bay Beach and for their exemplary conduct as young members of the community *Proposed by Senator Angel L. Bolques, Jr.*

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INVITED TESTIFIER(S):

- Mr. Keith Isaac and Ms. Marlene Isaac, Grandparents
- Mr. Kemel Wilson, Father
- Andrea Penn, Aunt

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