

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HOSPITALS & HUMAN SERVICES

The Honorable Ray Fonseca

CHAIRMAN



36th Legislature of the U.S. Virgin Islands

Capitol Building, P.O. Box 1690

Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00804

(340) 693-3577

Email: senatorrayfonseca@legvi.org

TO: Honorable Hubert L. Frederick, Vice-Chair
Honorable Marvin A. Blyden
Honorable Alma Francis-Heyliger
Honorable Kenneth L. Gittens
Honorable Milton E. Potter
Honorable Kurt A. Violet

FROM: Honorable Ray Fonseca 
Chairman, Committee on Health, Hospitals & Human Services

DATE: September 21, 2026

RE: AGENDA -Committee Hearing-**REVISED II**

Please be advised that the Committee on Health, Hospitals & Human Services will be conducting a hearing on Tuesday, September 29, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., in the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Chambers, on St. Thomas.

BLOCK I 10:00-12:00pm

Bill No. 36-0280 — An Act amending Title 19, Virgin Islands Code, Part IV, Chapter 37, Subchapter II, Section 831, Subsection (a), Paragraph (2), by giving a parent of a newborn child born in a government hospital the option to receive the child's birth certificate by mail.

INVITED TESTIFIERS:

The Honorable Justa E. Encarnacion
Commissioner
Department of Health

Ms. Darlene A. Baptiste, MA Ed, RTT, EMT, CPM
Territorial Chief Executive Officer
SRMC & JFLMC

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HOSPITALS & HUMAN SERVICES

The Honorable Ray Fonseca

CHAIRMAN



36th Legislature of the U.S. Virgin Islands

Capitol Building, P.O. Box 1690

Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00804

(340) 693-3577

Email: senatorrayfonseca@legvi.org

BLOCK II

12:01pm-2:45pm

Bill No. 36-0048- An Act amending title 22, Virgin Islands Code, chapter 3 relating to annual rate changes for medical malpractice liability insurance and amending title 27, Virgin Islands Code, chapter 1 by increasing the limitation on recovery in medical malpractice actions from \$250,000 to \$400,000; designating the records and testimony gathered by quality improvement committees as confidential; and establishing additional requirements for filing medical malpractice claims.

INVITED TESTIFIERS:

The Honorable Justa E. Encarnacion
Commissioner
Department of Health

The Honorable Gordon C. Rhea
Attorney General
Department of Justice

Ms. Darlene A. Baptiste, MA Ed, RTT, EMT, CPM
Territorial Chief Executive Officer
SRMC & JFLMC

Ms. Cora L. E. Christian, M. D.
Executive Secretary/Treasurer
Virgin Islands Medical Society

Ms. Shari N. D'Andrade, Esq.
President
Virgin Islands Bar Association

BLOCK III

3:00pm-4:45pm

The Committee will receive testimony from the Virgin Islands Department of Health regarding the status of its programs, services, operations, regulatory responsibilities, and ongoing initiatives. The Department will provide updates on public health programs, patient services, staffing and funding, community clinics, maternal and child health, mental health and substance abuse services, vital records, environmental health and inspections, immunizations, HIV medications and vendor payments, Certificates of Need, malpractice insurance, and the status of major Department construction and healthcare projects.

INVITED TESTIFIER:

The Honorable Justa E. Encarnacion
Commissioner
Department of Health