

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: June 27, 2025

RE: AGENDA - Committee Meeting - **Revised V**

Please be advised that the Committee on Health, Hospitals & Human Services will be conducting a meeting on Monday, July 07, 2025, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., in the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Chambers, on St. Thomas.

BLOCK I 10:00-11:30am

36-0003 An Act amending title 19 Virgin Islands Code relating to nursing homes and assisted living facilities by adding a new chapter 76 to establish the services that nursing homes and assisted living facilities are required to provide; establishing limitations on financial charges, requirements for visitation, and the rights of a resident, **Sponsored by Senator Angel L. Bolques, Jr.**

INVITED TESTIFIER(S):

The Honorable Justa Encarnacion
Commissioner
Department of Health

Mr. Gordon Rhea, Esq
Attorney General,
Department of Justice

The Honorable Averil E. George
Commissioner
Department of Human Services

Mr. Troy Schuster
Virgin Islands State Director
American Association of Retired Persons

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BLOCK II **12:15pm-2:00pm**

The committee will receive a comprehensive overview of the growing challenges posed by the direct discharge of minimally processed wastewater in public areas and brine discharge in our bays, which threatens environmental safety, public hygiene, and community health. This synopsis should help us understand both the immediate and long-term health risks, including potential disease outbreaks, and to provide guidance on best practices for sewage management, public health protection, and coordinated government response.

INVITED TESTIFIERS:

The Honorable Justa E. Encarnacion
Commissioner,
Department of Health

The Honorable Jean-Pierre Oriol
Commissioner,
Department of Planning & Natural Resources

Mr. Daryl Griffith
Intern Executive Director
VI Waste Management Authority

Mr. Karl Knight
Executive Director & CEO
VI Water & Power Authority

Anselmo Oleo
Business Owner
Double Play Bar and Grill

BLOCK III **2:15pm-4:00pm**

The Committee will receive testimony from Roy Lester Schneider Hospital CEO, Ms. Tina Commissiong, regarding the current status of kidney dialysis services on St. Thomas in light of the temporary closure of the Caribbean Kidney Center. The Committee will also hear updates concerning the Virgin Islands Healthcare Foundation, based on St. Croix, and the renal center's capacity to accommodate additional dialysis patients during this period.

INVITED TESTIFIERS:

Ms. Tina M. Commissiong, Esq., MPA
Chief Executive Officer,
Schneider Regional Medical Center

Dr. Tasmin Kahn, MD
Nephrologist
The Virgin Islands Healthcare Foundation

Mrs. Aminah Saleem
Patient Advocate and Community Awareness
The Virgin Islands Healthcare Foundation