

**BILL NO. 36-0005**

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**Thirty-Sixth Legislature of the Virgin Islands**

**February 27, 2025**

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An Act amending title 16 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 2, section 99 establishing a mandatory minimum bail amount in domestic violence cases

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**PROPOSED BY:** Senator Angel L. Bolques, Jr.

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*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:*

**SECTION 1.** (a) Title 16 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 2, section 99, is amended as follows:

(1) subsection (b):

(A) in paragraphs (1), (2) and (3) by inserting “Not less than” at the beginning of each paragraph respectively and by striking “with no 10% provision” and inserting “fully secured” in each paragraph respectively; and

(B) by inserting the following paragraph (4):

“(4) If the underlying crime has a higher bail amount than the amount in subsection (b) of this section, the higher bail amount shall apply.”

(b) subsection (c) is amended by inserting the following after “forthwith.”: “If the defendant has any contact with the victim after release, and the People can prove the defendant contacted the victim by a preponderance of the evidence, the defendant shall be immediately remanded to custody, and his bail revoked. To be released, the defendant must demonstrate to the Court that he is not a danger to the victim.”

(c) subsection (e) is amended by inserting the following after “center.”: “Appropriate treatment options include a certified Partner Abuse Intervention Program.”

**BILL SUMMARY**

This bill establishes a mandatory minimum bail amount for a person arrested for or charged with a crime that constitutes domestic violence.

**BR25-0024/February 7, 2025/AA/Revised/February 26, 2025**