



Legislature of the Virgin Islands

HONORABLE CLIFFORD A. JOSEPH, SR.

Chair, Committee on Homeland Security, Justice and Public Safety



Vice-Chair, Committee on Housing, Transportation and Telecommunication
Member, Committee on Disaster Recovery, Infrastructure and Planning
Member, Committee on Economic Development and Agriculture
Member, Committee on Rules and Judiciary

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY, JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

The 36th Legislature's Committee on Homeland Security, Justice and Public Safety will meet on Thursday, September 4, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the Frits E. Lawaetz Conference Room on St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands.

OFFICIAL AGENDA – REVISED

BLOCK I: 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Bill No. 36-0144 – *An act amending title 14 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 113 to define and prohibit assault rifles, ban suppressors and silencers, and requiring safety training for licensed rifles and shotgun holders; prohibiting large-capacity magazines and preventing the illegal sales of firearms, firearm accessories and ammunition. (Sponsored by: Senator Clifford A. Joseph, Sr.)*

Invited Testifiers:

*Honorable Mario Brooks
Commissioner
Virgin Islands Police Department*

*Honorable Gordon Rhea, Esq.
Attorney General of the Virgin Islands
Virgin Islands Department of Justice*

*Mr. Antonio Emanuel
Director, Office of Gun Violence Prevention
Office of the Governor*

Bill No. 36-0105 – *An act amending title 7 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 13, subchapter III by prohibiting the possession, sale, or manufacture of tetrahydrocannabinolic acid, delta-6 THC, delta-8 THC and delta-10 THC products in the Virgin Islands and for other related purposes (Sponsored by: Senator Clifford A. Joseph, Sr.)*



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Page | 2

Invited Testifiers:

*Honorable Mario Brooks
Commissioner
Virgin Islands Police Department*

*Honorable Gordon Rhea
Attorney General of the Virgin Islands
Virgin Islands Department of Justice*

*Honorable Justa “Tita” Encarnacion
Commissioner
V.I. Department of Health*

*Honorable Louis E. Petersen, PhD
Commissioner
V.I. Department of Agriculture*

*Honorable H. Nathalie Hodge
Commissioner
V.I. Department of Licensing and Consumer
Affairs*

*Ms. Joanne Moorehead
Executive Director
V.I. Office of Cannabis Regulation*

*Ms. Riise Richards
Chair, V.I. Industrial Hemp Commission
Deputy Commissioner, VI Department of
Agriculture*

*Mr. Duane Howell
Executive Director
ARCH Institute*

LUNCH BREAK: 12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

BLOCK II: 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Bill No. 36-0123 – *An act amending title 20 Virgin Islands Code, part II, chapter 43, subchapter I, section 493 making it unlawful for a person who has 0.04 percent or more, by weight, of alcohol in his blood to operate a commercial motor vehicle, and making it unlawful for a person under the age of 21 years who has any detectable amount of alcohol in his blood, to operate a motor vehicle (**Sponsored by: Senator Ray Fonseca**)*



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HONORABLE CLIFFORD A. JOSEPH, SR.

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Page | 3

Invited Testifiers:

Honorable Mario M. Brooks
Commissioner
V.I. Police Department

Honorable Gordon Rhea, Esq.
V.I. Attorney General
V.I. Department of Justice

Ms. Julie Smith Todman, Esq.
Chief Public Defender
V.I. Office of the Public Defender

Bill No. 36-0136– *An act amending title 23 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 17, subchapter II by adding new sections 1331 through 1336 mandating lethal weapon training for security guards and investigators*
(Sponsored by: Senator Avery L. Lewis)

Invited Testifiers:

Honorable Mario M. Brooks
Commissioner
V.I. Police Department

Honorable Gordon Rhea, Esq.
V.I. Attorney General
V.I. Department of Justice

Mr. Gleston E. McIntosh
Executive Director
V.I. Peace Officer Standards and Training

All Senators
Legislative Staff
Media