COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY, JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

04/03/2025-AMENDED AND REPORTED OUT TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JUDICIARY

BILL NO. 36-0036

Thirty-Sixth Legislature of the Virgin Islands

February 27, 2025

An Act repealing and reenacting title 20 Virgin Islands Code, part II, chapter 43, section 512 increasing penalties for traffic violations; establishing a Virgin Islands Police Department Impound Lot; and for other related purposes

PROPOSED BY:	Senators Kenneth L. Gittens, Franklin D. Johnson, Avery L. Lewis,
	Dwayne M. DeGraff and Carla J. Joseph
	Co-sponsor: Marise C. James

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

- 2 SECTION 1. This Act may be cited as the "Updated Traffic Fines and Police
- 3 Impound Lot Establishment Act of 2025."
- 4 SECTION 2. Title 20 Virgin Islands Code, Part II, chapter 43, section 512 is repealed
- 5 and reenacted with amendments as follows:

6 § 512. Schedule of fines for traffic violations

VIC	VIOLATION DESCRIPTION	1st. FEE	2nd. FEE	3rd. FEE
T 20, 374	Allowing unlicensed driver to operate a vehicle	100.00	100.00	200.00
T 20, 461(a),(b)	Operating vehicles with bald tires	100.00	125.00	150.00
T 20, 461(a),(b)	Operating vehicles with broken windshield	100.00	150.00	200.00
1 20, 100(0)	Operating or carrying person on motorcycle without wearing helmet	125.00	175.00	225.00
1 20, 105(u)	Carrying more than 1 person on a motorcycle designed to carry one person	100.00		TO BE DETERMINED BY THE COURT

T_{20} 461(a) (b)	Driving an unsafe vehicle	100.00	150.00	200.00
T 20, 401(a), (b) T 20, 371(a)	Driving without a license (Never obtaining a driver's	100.00	200.00	200.00 TO BE
· · · · · ·	license)	100.00	200.00	DETERMINED
T 20, 509	Driving while using cell phone (Mobile Phone)	150.00	200.00	BY THE COURT 300.00
,	Driving while using cen phone (Woone Thone)	130.00	200.00	300.00
T 23, 414 &	Disregarding Crosswalk	100.00	125.00	150.00
415				
T 20, 332	Displaying a sticker not approved or generated by Bureau	250.00	TO BE DETERMINED BY	TO BE DETERMINED
	of Motor Vehicles Dir.		THE COURT	BY THE COURT
T 20, 541	Failing to report an accident	100.00	150.00	200.00
	Failing to yield the right of way	100.00	150.00	200.00
T 20, 463(a)	Failing to dim lights	100.00	125.00	150.00
T 20, 495a	Failing to stop for siren	100.00	150.00	200.00
T 20, 334(e)	Unlawfully transferring license plates	150.00	250.00	350.00
T 20, 491(b)	Failing to stop when ordered	150.00	200.00	300.00
T 20, 335(a)	Failing to transfer registration	150.00	225.00	300.00
T 20, 495(d)	Failing to signal	100.00	125.00	250.00
T 20, 491(b)	Failing to proceed when ordered	100.00	125.00	150.00
T 20, 491(b)	Failing to obey an officer when ordered to stop or proceed	150.00	200.00	300.00
T 20, 500	Failing to meet vehicular load, height, width requirements	TO BE	DETERMINE	BY COURT
T 20, 466(a)	Failing to Restrain Infant or toddler under age 5 by use of	100.00	200.00	300.00
	child restraint system or booster seat			
T 20, 494a(a)	Failing to drive above minimum speed or failure to drive	100.00	150.00	200.00
	at minimum speed necessary for safe driving			
T 20, 331(1)(2)	Failing to display registration sticker	100.00	150.00	200.00
T 20, 708 & 712	Failing to show proof of vehicle insurance	100.00	150.00	200.00
T 20, 497(d)	Impeding traffic	100.00	150.00	200.00
T 20, 463	Failing to display proper lighting	125.00	175.00	250.00
T 20, 464(b)	Using improper muffler	150.00	250.00	350.00
T 20, 495(c)	Failing to properly make a turn	100.00	125.00	175.00
T 20, 495(a)	Failing to properly change lanes	100.00	150.00	200.00
T 20, 495(a)	Improper passing at intersection	150.00	200.00	250.00
T 20, 495(a)	Failing to properly pass	100.00	150.00	200.00
T 20, 497(a)	Leaving keys in ignition	100.00	150.00	200.00
T 20, 541	Leaving the scene of an accident	500.00	Must Appear In	Court
T 20, 541	Leaving the scene of an accident personal injury	1000.00	Must Appear In	Court
T 20, 541	Leaving the scene of an accident property damage	750.00	Must Appear In	Court
T 20, 541	Leaving the scene of an accident personal/property	1,500.00	Must Appear In	Court
T 20, 461(a),(b)	Failing to drive safely by burning out tires	100.00	125.00	150.00
T 20, 507	Failing to reverse properly	100.00	125.00	150.00
T 20, 495(a)	Failing to remain on left side of street or highway	125.00	175.00	225.00
T 20, 492	Failing to maintain control of vehicle	150.00	200.00	250.00
T 20, 500	Operating an overloaded vehicle	150.00	200.00	250.00
T 20, 461(b)	Operating an unsafe vehicle	100.00	150.00	200.00
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T 20, 401 Soliciting passengers 125.00 175.00 225.00 T 20, 800 Tinted glass on vehicle in violation of Title 20, section 150.00 250.00 350.00	T 20, 494	Exceeding the speed limit by not more than 29 miles	150.00	250.00	350.00
T 20, 800Tinted glass on vehicle in violation of Title 20, section150.00250.00350.00	T 20, 401		125.00	175.00	225.00
	T 20, 800		150.00		350.00

Т	20, 712	Uniı	nsured vehicle	250.00	500.00	TO BE DETERMINED
	20,					BY THE COURT
	20, 51(1)(2)331	Unre	egistered vehicle	200.00	300.00	400.00
(1))(2)					
1	SEC	TION	N 3. Establishment of a Police Impound Lot			
2	(a)	The	Virgin Islands Police Department shall establish an imp	ound lot for	the purpose	
3	of securely storing motor vehicles that have been towed for traffic violations, traffic accidents,					
4	impeding t	raffic	on Virgin Islands roadways, or probable cause of crim	inal activity	<i>.</i>	
5	(b)	The	Police Commissioner shall establish regulations govern	ing the oper	ration of the	
6	impound lo	ot inc	luding:			
7		(1)	Implementing strict safety and security protocols for i	mpounded v	vehicles and	
8	their contents;					
9		(2)	Creating a schedule of fees or other charges to be	charged mo	otor vehicle	
10	owners for towing services, storage services or both;					
11		(3)	Requiring that the regulations and fee schedules sha	ll be made	available to	
12	the p	ublic				
13		(4)	towing costs;			
14		(5)	storage costs;			
15		(6)	administrative costs; and			
16		(7)	fee adjustments.			
17	(c)	The	Virgin Islands Police Department may charge an admin	istrative fee	in addition	
18	to the fees	charg	ged for the towing and storage of the impounded vehi	cle. All ad	ministrative	
19	fees, and to	wing	and storage fees must be imposed on the registered owr	ner of the mo	otor vehicle.	

1	(d) The	registered owner of the vehicle shall be provided immediate notice of the
2	impoundment a	nd advised of the right to request a hearing before the Commissioner within 30
3	days of the imp	oundment.
4	(e) Any	v fee adjustments must be approved by the Governor with the approval of the
5	Legislature of t	he Virgin Islands.
6	(f) Def	initions.
7	For purpo	oses of this section, motor vehicle includes all-terrain vehicles and dirt bikes.
8	(1)	"All-terrain vehicle" means a motor vehicle designed to travel over any
9	terrain po	ssessing between three or six nonhighway tires, but does not include golf carts.
LO	(2)	"Dirt bike" means a motor-powered vehicle possessing two or more tires
L1	designed	to travel over any terrain, and capable of traveling off paved roads.
12	(g) Init	ial Fees.
L3	The initia	l fees to be charged upon the establishment of the impound lot are as follows:
L4	(1)	Towing: \$150.00
15	(2)	Storage: \$35.00 per day
16	(3)	Administrative cost: \$25.00
L7	SECTIO	N 4. (a) The following allocations shall be made from the proceeds of traffic fines
L8	imposed pursua	nt to title 20 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 43, section 512:
19	(1)	Three dollars from each paid traffic citation will be transferred to the Superior
20	Court of	the Virgin Islands with one dollar to be used for administrative purposes and
21	two dolla	rs to be used for funding the Rising Stars Steel Orchestra;
22	(2)	Two dollars from each paid traffic citation shall be allotted to the issuing law
23	enforcem	ent agency: and

1	(3) Five dollars from each paid traffic citation shall be allotted to the Police
2	Athletic League program to enhance community engagement and youth programs; and
3	(b) The \$25.00 administrative fee imposed under section (3) shall be utilized solely for
4	the maintenance and upkeep of the impound lot.
5	SECTION 5. Effective Date
6	This Act takes effect thirty working days after enactment, and the fee allotments shall become
7	available to the entities identified in section 4 effective October 1, 2025.
8	BILL SUMMARY
9	This bill amends Title 20, Virgin Islands Code, part II, chapter 43, section 512 increasing
10	penalties for traffic violations. It also allots funds to the Superior Court and issuing law
11	enforcement agencies apart from The Virgin Islands Police Department. Additionally, this bill
12	also appropriates funds to support the Police Athletic League.
13	BR25-0383/February 26, 2025/LMW
14	\\\AMENDS\36th Legislature\GITTENS, KENNETH L\Amendment 36-
15	337\Amendment 36-337- DRAFTED ON YELLOW.docx
16	\\\AMENDS\36th Legislature\GITTENS, KENNETH L\Amendment 36-

17 <u>342\Amendment 36-342- DRAFTED ON YELLOW.docx</u>