



Legislature Of The Virgin Islands

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THE HONORABLE
Carla J. Joseph

SENATOR

36th Legislature of the Virgin Islands

*Liaison to the United States Department of Interior
and Office of Insular Affairs*

CHAIR

Committee on Rules and Judiciary

VICE CHAIR

Committee on Culture, Youth, Aging, Sports, and Parks

MEMBER

Committee of the Whole

Committee on Education and Workforce Development

Committee on Housing, Transportation, and Telecommunications

Committee on Government Operations, Veterans Affairs,
and Consumer Protection

REVISED

Memorandum: 26-001

TO: Mrs. Kurell A. Sheridan, JD
Executive Director
36th Legislature of the V.I.

FROM: The Honorable Carla J. Joseph 
Chair
Committee on Rules and Judiciary

DATE: January 14, 2026

SUBJECT: **Revised** Committee Report for Thursday, January 8, 2026 Hearing

Please find attached the report for the Committee on Rules and Judiciary hearing held on Thursday, January 8, 2026, Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall on St. Thomas.

CC: All Senators
Chief Legal Counsel
Archive Division
Journal Division

RULES AND JUDICIARY JANUARY 8, 2026 REVISED COMMITTEE HEARING REPORT

On Thursday, January 8, 2026, the Committee on Rules and Judiciary held a hearing at 10:00 a.m. in the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall on St. Thomas. The Committee considered the following nomination and bills:

- **Mr. Pedro Williams, Esq.**— Governor’s Nominee for Judge of the Virgin Islands Superior Court, Division of St. Thomas-St. John.
- **Bill No. 36-0089** – An act approving the lease agreement between the Government of the Virgin Islands and PEO Productions, LLC d/b/a WSTA Radio, for Parcel No. 121 Submarine Base, No. 6, Southside Quarter, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, Parcel No. 167 Sub Base, No. 6, Southside Quarter, St. Thomas and Parcel No. 171 Sub Base, No. 6, Southside Quarter, St. Thomas.
- **Bill No. 36-0092** – An act approving the lease agreement between the Government of the Virgin Islands and St. John Taxi Services Corporation, for Parcel No. D-2 Estate Cruz Bay Town, Cruz Bay Quarter, St. John, Virgin Islands.
- **Bill No. 36-0030** – An act amending title 24 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 1, section 4, increasing the Virgin Islands minimum wage.
- **Bill No. 36-0208** – A resolution recognizing United States Senator Mike Crapo for his instrumental role in securing the historic increase in the rum cover over tax reimbursement for the Virgin Islands.
- **Bill No. 36-0105** – An act amending title 7 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 13, subchapter III to prohibit 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.
- **Bill No. 36- 0184** – An act amending title 22 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 14, The Virgin Islands Insurance Holding Company System Regulatory Act to implement revisions that were made to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners
- **Bill No. 36-0209** – An act amending title 23 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 10 to establish civil penalties for disregarding marine advisories and to create the Territorial Marine Safety Fund
- **Bill No. 36-0210** – An act appropriating the sum of \$4,000,000 from the Virgin Islands Insurance Guaranty Fund to the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority for the repair, replacement, and operation of streetlights throughout the Territory

- **Bill No. 36-0217** – An act approving the sale of Parcel No. 20-A Hospital Street, Christiansted, St. Croix, Virgin Islands by and between the Government of the Virgin Islands and Z Property VI LLC for the sum of \$260,000
- **Bill No. 36-0134** – An act repealing and reenacting title 18 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 1, section 2 relating to government employees' eligibility for elected offices, to allow government employees to run for political office while actively employed, unless specifically prohibited by federal or other laws.

The meeting was called to order by the Committee Chair, Sen. Carla J. Joseph at 10:06 a.m.

Committee Members Present

Sen. Carla J. Joseph, Chair
Sen. Angel L. Bolques, Jr.
Sen. Alma Francis Heyliger
Sen. Clifford A. Joseph, Sr.
Sen. Avery L. Lewis
Sen. Milton E. Potter

Office of the Executive Director

Ms. Jervon Ottley
Mr. Isaac Winston

Sergeant-At-Arms

Mr. Delvin Fleming

Public Affairs/Media

Mr. Bernard Mathews
Ms. Malissa Gustave
Ms. Africah Harrigan
Mr. Barry Leerdam
Ms. Chaunte Herbert
Mr. Alwyn Baptiste
Mr. Dequan Milliner
Ms. Diana Cruz
Mr. Kashief Hamilton

Non-Committee Members Present

Sen. Marvin Blyden
Sen. Hurbert Frederick
Sen. Ray Fonseca
Sen. Novelle E. Francis, Jr.
Sen. Marise C. James

Committee Member Absent/Excused

Sen. Kenneth L. Gittens, Vice Chair

Legislative Reporters

Mrs. Nataya Munoz-Melchoir
Ms. Tricia D. Sealey
Mrs. Vashti Gerald-Berry
Mrs. Nadine Coley-Williams

Clerk/Timekeeper

Mrs. Deleka Callwood Daniel

Additional Supporting Staff

Ms. Shania Nieves

Legal Counsel

Ms. Sharline I. Rogers, Esq.

In block one of the agenda, the Committee considered the Governor's nominee: **Mr. Pedro Williams, Esq. as Judge to the Virgin Islands Superior Court, Division of St. Thomas-St. John.** Senators proceeded with one (1) round of four (4) minutes of questioning.

| Governor's Nominee Name | Position | Placement | Motion | Vote |
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| Mr. Pedro Williams, Esq. | Judge | Virgin Islands Superior Court – Division St. Thomas-St. John | Senator Avery Lewis moved that Mr. Pedro Williams, Esq. nomination be favorably voted upon in the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and forwarded to the full body for further consideration and action. The motion was seconded by Senators Potter, Francis Heyliger, and Joseph, Sr. | 6 yeas 1 absent |

In block two of the agenda, the Committee considered Bill No. 36-0134. Ms. Cindy Richards, Director of the Division of Personnel, provided testimony in support of the bill. Senators then proceeded with one (1) round of questioning, lasting four (4) minutes. Subsequently, Senator Potter made a motion to move the bill to the end of the agenda. The motion was seconded by Senator Francis Heyliger and was carried.

In block three of the agenda, the Committee voted on ten (10) bills: **Bill Nos. 36-0089, 36-0092, 36-0030, 36-0208, 36-0105, 36-0184, 36-0209, 36-0210, 36-0217, and 36-0134.**

| Bill Number | Short Title | Amendment | Motion | Vote |
|----------------|--|-----------|--|--------------------|
| 36-0089 | An act approving the lease agreement between the Government of the Virgin Islands and PEO Productions, LLC d/b/a WSTA Radio, for Parcel No. 121 Submarine Base, No. 6, Southside Quarter, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, Parcel No. 167 Sub Base, No. 6, Southside Quarter, St. | | Senator Potter moved that Bill No. 36-0089 , be favorably voted upon in the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and forwarded to the full body for further consideration and action. The motion was seconded by Senators Lewis, Francis Heyliger and Joseph, Sr. | 6 yeas 1 absent |

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| | Thomas and Parcel No. 171 Sub Base, No. 6, Southside Quarter, St. Thomas. | | | |
| 36-0092 | An act approving the lease agreement between the Government of the Virgin Islands and St. John Taxi Services Corporation, for Parcel No. D-2 Estate Cruz Bay Town, Cruz Bay Quarter, St. John, Virgin Islands. | | Senator Bolques, Jr. moved that Bill No. 36-0092 , be favorably voted upon in the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and forwarded to the full body for further consideration and action. The motion was seconded by Senator Joseph, Sr. | 5 yeas 1 absent 1 not voting |
| 36-0030 | An act amending title 24 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 1, section 4, increasing the Virgin Islands minimum wage. | | Senator Lewis moved that Bill No. 36-0030 , be favorably voted upon in the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and forwarded to the full body for further consideration and action. The motion was seconded by Senators Joseph, Sr. and Potter. | 6 yeas 1 absent |
| 36-0208 | A resolution recognizing United States Senator Mike Crapo for his instrumental role in securing the historic increase in the rum cover over tax reimbursement for the Virgin Islands. | | Senator Lewis moved that Bill No. 36-0208 , be favorably voted upon in the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and forwarded to the full body for further consideration and action. The motion was seconded by Senator Joseph, Sr. | 5 yeas 1 absent 1 not voting |
| 36-0105 | An act amending title 7 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 13, subchapter III to prohibit 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. | | Senator Joseph moved that Bill No. 36-0105 , be favorably voted upon in the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and forwarded to the full body for further consideration and action. The motion was seconded by Senators Lewis and Potter. | 6 yeas 1 absent |

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| 36-0184 | An act amending title 22 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 14, The Virgin Islands Insurance Holding Company System Regulatory Act to implement revisions that were made to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners | | Senator Potter moved that Bill No. 36-0184 , be favorably voted upon in the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and forwarded to the full body for further consideration and action. The motion was seconded by Senators Lewis and Joseph, Sr. | 6 yeas 1 absent |
| 36-0209 | An act amending title 23 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 10 to establish civil penalties for disregarding marine advisories and to create the Territorial Marine Safety Fund | | Senator Bolques moved that Bill No. 36-0209 , be favorably voted upon in the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and forwarded to the full body for further consideration and action. The motion was seconded by Senators Lewis, Potter and Joseph, Sr. | 6 yeas 1 absent |
| 36-0210 | An act appropriating the sum of \$4,000,000 from the Virgin Islands Insurance Guaranty Fund to the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority for the repair, replacement, and operation of streetlights throughout the Territory | | Senator Lewis moved that Bill No. 36-0210 , be favorably voted upon in the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and forwarded to the full body for further consideration and action. The motion was seconded by Senator Potter. | 4 yeas 1 absent 1 nay 1 not voting |
| 36-0217 | An act approving the sale of Parcel No. 20-A Hospital Street, Christiansted, St. Croix, Virgin Islands by and between the Government of the Virgin Islands and Z Property VI LLC for the sum of \$260,000 | | Senator Potter moved that Bill No. 36-0217 , be favorably voted upon in the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and forwarded to the full body for further consideration and action. The motion was seconded by Senator Joseph. | 6 yeas 1 absent |
| 36-0134 | An act repealing and reenacting title 18 Virgin | Senator Francis Heyliger offered | Senator Lewis moved that Bill No. 36-0134 as amended , be | 5 yeas 1 absent |

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| | Islands Code, chapter 1, section 2 relating to government employees' eligibility for elected offices, to allow government employees to run for political office while actively employed, unless specifically prohibited by federal or other laws. | Amendment No. 36-610, which was seconded by Senators Potter and Joseph, Sr., the motion was carried. | favorably voted upon in the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and forwarded to the full body for further consideration and action. The motion was seconded by Senators Joseph, Sr. and Potter. | 1 nay |
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The Chair, Sen. Carla J. Joseph, adjourned the Committee on Rules and Judiciary hearing at 4:44 p.m.