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

Memorandum: 26-026

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: October 26, 2026

SUBJECT: Committee Report for Rules and Judiciary Meeting on Thursday, October 22, 2026

Please find attached the report for the Committee on Rules and Judiciary meeting held on Thursday, October 22, 2026 in the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall on St. Thomas.

CC: All Senators
Chief Legal Counsel
Archive Division
Journal Division

RULES AND JUDICIARY
October 22, 2026 COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

The Committee on Rules and Judiciary held its meeting on Thursday, October 22, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. in the Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall on St. Thomas. The Committee considered the following Nominations and Bills:

- **Mrs. Ardrina Scott Elliott**- Governor's Nominee for Board of Parol and representative of the District of St. Thomas - St. John

- **Dr. Tylur D. Arvidson**- Governor's Nominee for The Board of Chiropractic Examiners

- **Ms. Caryn Hodge**-Governor's Nominee for the Virgin Islands Historic Preservation Commission

- **Bill No 36-0277 –** An act enacting a comprehensive probate code for the Virgin Islands to govern intestate and testate succession, administration of decedents' estates, and related procedures. **Proposed by Senator Novelle E. Francis, Jr.**

- **Bill No. 36-0048−**An Act amending title 22, Virgin Islands Code, chapter 3 relating to annual rate changes for medical malpractice liability insurance and amending title 27, Virgin Islands Code, chapter 1 by increasing the limitation on recovery in medical malpractice actions from $250,000 to $400,000; designating the records and testimony gathered by quality improvement committees as confidential; and establishing additional requirements for filing medical malpractice claims. **Proposed by Senator Novelle E. Francis, Jr.**

- **Bill No. 36-0280−**An act amending title 19 Virgin Islands Code, part IV, chapter 37, subchapter II, section 831, subsection (a), paragraph (2), by giving a parent of a newborn, who is born in a government hospital, the option to receive the child's birth certificate by mail. **Proposed by Senator Hubert L. Frederick**

- **Bill No. 36-0218−**An act honoring and commending Jerome Austin Browne for his outstanding achievements and contributions to baseball and the youth of St. Croix by renaming Prince Street in Christiansted "Jerry Browne Street". **Proposed by Senator Angel L. Bolques, Jr.**

- **Bill No. 36-0229−**An act honoring and commending Adelbert M. "Bert" Bryan for his outstanding contributions and dedicated service to the Virgin Islands community, particularly on the island of St. Croix, and to ceremoniously name Queen Street in Frederiksted, St. Croix, in his honor as "Adelbert M. "Bert" Bryan Drive". **Proposed by Senator Kenneth L. Gittens**

- **Bill No. 36-0281−**An act honoring and commending Hans Lawaetz for his lifetime of exemplary service to the Virgin Islands and awarding him the Virgin Islands Medal of Honor. **Proposed by Senator Novelle E. Francis, Jr.**

- **Bill No. 36-0319−**An act honoring and commending Rena Brodhurst for her extraordinary contributions to journalism and the preservation of the Virgin Islands' historical and cultural narrative and awarding her the Virgin Islands Medal of Honor. **Proposed by Senator Novelle E. Francis, Jr.**

- **Bill No. 36-0320**−A resolution honoring and commending Kevre Hendricks for his outstanding contributions to music, education, military service, and cultural preservation in the Virgin Islands. **Proposed by Senator Kurt A. Vialet**

- **Bill No. 36-0323**−An act honoring and commending Maude "Maudie" Dowdy Roberts posthumously and concurrently designating Prince Street in Frederiksted the "Maude 'Maudie' Dowdy Roberts Drive". **Proposed by Senator Kenneth L. Gittens**

- **Bill No. 36-0318-**An act amending title 23 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 13 establishing a Police Reserve Unit within the Virgin Islands Police Department **Proposed by Senator Kenneth L. Gittens**

- **Bill No. 36-0338**−An act amending title 5 Virgin Islands Code, section 31 (a) by changing the commencement of actions for personal bodily injury **Proposed by Senator Franklin D. Johnson**

- **Bill No. 36-0346**−An act amending title 19 Virgin Islands Code creating the Emergency Medical Services System **Proposed by Senator Marise C. James**

- **Bill No. 36-0302**−An act appropriating $1,000,000 from the Community Facilities Trust Fund to the Virgin Islands Diabetes Center of Excellence to finance the establishment of the Chronic Care Management Program in fiscal year 2027 **Proposed by Senator Novelle E. Francis, Jr.**

- **Bill No. 36-0335**−An act appropriating $600,000 from the St. Croix Capital Improvement Fund to the Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources to provide the remaining funding necessary for the Frederiksted Fish Market Rehabilitation Project **Proposed by Senator Hubert L. Frederick**

- **Bill No. 36-0357**−An act approving the lease agreement between the Government of the Virgin Islands, acting through its Commissioner of the Department of Property and Procurement, and Lovango Islands Holding, LLP d/b/a The Lovango Resort and Beach Club for semi-improved Parcel No. 100-1 Estate Nazareth, No. 1 Red Hook Quarter, St. Thomas **Proposed by Senators Milton E. Potter and Ray Fonseca, by Request of the Governor**

- **Bill No. 36-0241**−A resolution honoring and commending Rashida Hodge for her being on a global scale in the field of technology as well as philanthropic efforts towards the people of the Virgin Islands through the establishment of the Rashida Hodge Endowment Fund at the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands **Proposed by Senator Milton E. Potter**

- **Bill No. 36-0327**−A resolution honoring and commending the St. Thomas Majorettes for over two decades of service to the Virgin Islands community, by promoting discipline, teamwork, leadership development, academic encouragement, personal growth and mentorship for youth, through the performing art of baton twirling **Proposed by Senator Milton E. Potter**

- **Bill No. 36-0349**−An act honoring and commending Austin M. Petersen for his extraordinary artistic contributions to the cultural heritage of the Virgin Islands; formally designating the mural wall along Weymouth Rhymer Highway on St. Thomas as Black Utopia Lane; and appropriating funds for the installation of a plaque at Black Utopia Lane **Proposed by Senator Angel L. Bolques, Jr.**

- **Bill No. 36-0350**−A resolution honoring and commending the Virgin Islands Conference of the 16th Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church on its 106th anniversary **Proposed by Senator Hubert L. Frederick**

Committee Members Present
Sen. Carla J. Joseph, Chair
Sen. Kenneth L. Gittens, Vice Chair
Sen. Alma Francis Heyliger
Sen. Angel L. Bolques, Jr.
Sen. Avery L. Lewis
Sen. Clifford A. Joseph, Sr.
Sen. Milton E. Potter

Office of the Executive Director
Mr. Charles Brown, Jr.
Ms. Jervon Ottley
Ms. Myrna Pickard

Sergeant-At-Arms
Mr. Delvin Fleming
Mr. Jeremy Charleswell

Public Affairs/Media
Mr. Bernard Mathews
Ms. Malissa Gustave
Mr. Omari Hicks
Ms. Chaunte Herbert
Mr. Alwyn Baptiste
Ms. Saidah Sekou
Ms. Diana Cruz
Mr. Kashief Hamilton
Mr. Torian Martin
Ms. Africah Harrigan

Non-Committee Members Present
Sen. Novelle Francis, Jr.

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

Clerk/Timekeeper
Ms. Shania Nieves

Additional Supporting Staff
Mrs. Delekah Callwood-Daniel
Ms. C'ianna Francis

Legal Counsel
Mr. Augustin Ayala, Esq.

In block one of the Agenda, the Committee considered the Governor's Nominations: **Mrs. Ardrina Scott Elliott to the Board of Parol and representative of the District of St. Thomas - St. John and Dr. Tylur D. Arvidson to The Board of Chiropractic Examiners.** Senators proceeded with one (1) round of three (3) minutes of questioning time for the nominees.

Governor's Nominees	Position	Placement	Motion	Vote
Mrs. Ardrina Scott Elliott	Member	Board of Parol and representative of the District of St. Thomas	Senator Avery L. Lewis motioned that Mrs. Ardrina Scott Elliott be favorably voted upon in the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and forwarded to the full body for further consideration and action. The	7 yeas

			motion was seconded by Senator Kenneth L. Gittens	
Dr. Tylur D. Arvidson	Member	Board of Chiropractic Examiners	Senator Kenneth L. Gittens motioned that Dr. Tylur D. Arvidson 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 Avery L. Lewis	7 yeas

In block two of the Agenda, the Committee considered the Governor's Nominations: **Ms. Caryn Hodge of the Virgin Islands Historic Preservation Commission.** Senators proceeded with one (1) round of three (3) minutes of questioning time for the nominees.

Governor's Nominees	Position	Placement	Motion	Vote
Ms. Caryn Hodge	Member	Virgin Islands Historic Preservation Commission	Senator Clifford A. Joseph, Sr., motioned that Ms. Caryn Hodge 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 Kinneth L. Gittens, Avery L. Lewis, Milton E. Potter and Angel L. Bolques, Jr.	7 yeas

In block three of the Agenda, the Committee heard testimony and considered **Bill No. 36-0277.** Senators proceeded with one (1) round of five (5) minutes of debate time.

Bill Number	Short Title	Amendment	Motion	Vote
36-0277	An Act enacting a comprehensive probate code for the Virgin Islands to Govern intestate and testate succession, administration of decedents' estates, and related procedures. **Proposed by Senator Novelle E. Francis, Jr.**	Senator Avery L. Lewis offered **Amendment No. 36-994,** which was seconded by Senator Angel L. Bolques, Jr., the motion was carried. Senator Angel L. Bolques offered **Amendment No. 36-926,** which was seconded by Senators Clifford	Senator Angel L. Bolques, Jr motioned that **Bill No. 36-0277** be favorably voted upon in the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and forwarded to the full body for further consideration and action under the Closed Rule 314(b)(4) of the Rules of the 36th Legislature. The motion was seconded by Senators Clifford A. Joseph, Sr. and Avery L. Lewis.	7 yeas

		A. Jospeh, Sr. and Avery L. Lewis the motion was carried.		

In block four of the Agenda, the Committee considered **Bill Nos. 36-0048, 36-0280, 36-0218, 36-0229, 36-0281, 36-0319, 36-0320, 36-0323, 36-0318, 36-0338, 36-0346, 36-0302, 36-0335, 36-0357, 36-0241, 36-0327, 36-0349 and 36-0350.** Senator Kenneth L. Gittens motioned to wave the debate time and seconded by Senator Avery L. Lewis.

Bill Number	Short Title	Amendment	Motion	Vote
36-0048	An act amending title 22, Virgin Islands Code, chapter 3 relating to annual rate changes for medical malpractice liability insurance and amending title 27, Virgin Islands Code, chapter 1 by increasing the limitation on recovery in medical malpractice actions from $250,000 to $400,000; designating the records and testimony gathered by quality improvement committees as confidential: and establishing additional requirements for filing medical malpractice claims. **Proposed by Senator Novelle E. Francis, Jr.**		Senator Avery L. Lewis motioned that **Bill No. 36-0048** be favorably voted upon in the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and forwarded to the full body for further consideration and action under the Closed Rule 314(b)(4) of the Rules of the 36th Legislature. The motion was seconded by Senators Angel L. Bolques, Jr. and Clifford A. Joseph, Sr.	7 yeas
36-0280	An act amending title 19 Virgin Islands Code, part IV, chapter 37, subchapter II, section 831, subsection(a), paragraph (2), by giving a parent of a newborn, who is born in a government hospital, the option to receive the child's birth certificate by mail. **Proposed by Senator Hurbert L. Frederick**		Senator Milton E. Potter motioned that **Bill No. 36-0280** be favorably voted upon in the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and forwarded to the full body for further consideration and action under the Closed Rule 314(b)(4) of the Rules of the 36th Legislature. The motion was seconded by Clifford A. Joseph Sr. and Angel L. Bolques Jr.	7 yeas
36-0218	An act honoring and commending Jerome Austin Browne for his outstanding achievements and contributions to baseball and the youth of St. Croix by renaming Prince Street in		Senator Angel L. Bolques Jr. motioned that **Bill No. 36-0218** be favorably voted upon in the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and forwarded to the full body for further	7 yeas

	Christiansted" Jerry Browne Street'. **Proposed by Senator Angel L. Bolques, Jr.,**		consideration and action under the Closed Rule 314(b)(4) of the Rules of the 36th Legislature. The motion was seconded by Senators Clifford A. Joseph Sr., Milton E. Potter and Avery L. Lewis.	
36-0229	An act honoring and commending Adelbert M. "Bert" Bryan for his outstanding contributions and dedicated service to the Virgin Islands community, particularly on the island of St. Croix, and to ceremoniously name Queen Street in Frederiksted, St. Croix, in his honor as "Adelbert M. "Bert" Bryan Drive". **Proposed by Senator Kenneth L. Gittens**	Senator Kenneth L. Gittens offered **Amendment No. 36-973,** which was seconded by Senators Milton E. Potter Alma Francis-Heyliger, Avery L. Lewis Angel L. Bolques and Clifford A. Jospeh, Sr. the motion was carried.	Senator Kenneth L. Gittens motioned that **Bill No. 36-0229** be favorably voted upon in the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and forwarded to the full body for further consideration and action under the Closed Rule 314(b)(4) of the Rules of the 36th Legislature. The motion was seconded by Senators Clifford A. Joseph, Sr., Milton E. Potter, and Avery L. Lewis	7 yeas
36-0281	An act honoring and commending Hans Lawaetz for his lifetime of exemplary service to the Virgin Islands awarding him the Virgin Islands Medal of Honor. **Proposed by Senator Novelle E. Francis, Jr.**		Senator Avery L. Lewis motioned that **Bill No. 36-0281** be favorably voted upon in the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and forwarded to the full body for further consideration and action under the Closed Rule 314(b)(4) of the Rules of the 36th Legislature. The motion was seconded by Senators Clifford A. Joseph, Sr., and Milton E. Potter	7 yeas
36-0319	An act honoring and commending Rena Brodhurst for her extraordinary contributions to journalism and preservation of the Virgin Islands' historical and cultural narrative and awarding her the Virgin Islands Medal of		Senator Angel L. Bolques motioned that **Bill No. 36-0319** be favorably voted upon in the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and forwarded to the full body for further consideration and action under the Closed Rule 314(b)(4) of	7 yeas

	Honor. **Proposed by Senator Novelle E. Francis, Jr**		the Rules of the 36th Legislature. The motion was seconded by Senators Clifford A. Joseph, Sr. and Alma Francis-Heyliger	
36-0320	A solution honoring and commending Kevre Hendricks for his outstanding contributions to music, education, military service, and cultural preservation in the Virgin Islands. **Proposed by Senator Kurt A. Vialet**		Senator Clifford A. Joseph, Sr. motioned that **Bill No. 36-0320** be favorably voted upon in the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and forwarded to the full body for further consideration and action under the Closed Rule 314(b)(4) of the Rules of the 36th Legislature. The motion was seconded by Senators Angel L. Bolques and Milton E. Potter	7 yeas
36-0323	An act honoring and commending Maude "Maudie" Dowdy Roberts posthumously and concurrently designating Prince Street in Frederiksted the "Maude 'Maudie' Dowdy Roberts Drive". **Proposed by Senator Kenneth L. Gittens**		Senator Kenneth L. Gittens motioned that **Bill No. 36-0323** be favorably voted upon in the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and forwarded to the full body for further consideration and action under the Closed Rule 314(b)(4) of the Rules of the 36th Legislature. The motion was seconded by Senator Clifford A. Joseph., Sr.	7 yeas
36-0318	An act amending title 23 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 13 establishing a Police Reserve Unit within the Virgin Islands Police Department **Proposed by Senator Kenneth L. Gittens**		Senator Kenneth L. Gittens motioned that **Bill No. 36-0318** be favorably voted upon in the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and forwarded to the full body for further consideration and action under the Closed Rule 314(b)(4) of the Rules of the 36th Legislature. The motion was seconded by Senator Clifford A. Joseph, Sr.	6 yeas 1 not voting

36-0338	An act amending title 5 Virgin Islands Code, section 31 (a) by changing the commencement of actions for personal bodily injury **Proposed by Senator Franklin D. Johnson**	Senator Kenneth L. Gitten offered **Amendment No. 36-993,** which was seconded by Senators Alma Francis-Heyliger, Avery L. Lewis and Clifford A. Jospeh, Sr. the motion was carried.	Senator Kenneth L. Gittens motioned that **Bill No. 36-0338** be favorably voted upon in the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and forwarded to the full body for further consideration and action under the Closed Rule 314(b)(4) of the Rules of the 36th Legislature. The motion was seconded by Senators Alma Francis-Heyliger, Clifford A. Joseph., Sr. and Avery L. Lewis	7 yeas
36-0346	An act amending title 19 Virgin Islands Code creating the Emergency Medical Services System **Proposed by Senator Marise C. James**	Senator Kenneth L. Gitten offered **Amendment No. 36- 999,** which was seconded by Senator Angel L. Bolques. the motion was carried.	Senator Kenneth L. Gittens motioned that **Bill No. 36-0346** be favorably voted upon in the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and forwarded to the full body for further consideration and action under the Closed Rule 314(b)(4) of the Rules of the 36th Legislature. The motion was seconded by Senators Clifford A. Joseph, Sr. and Angel L. Bolques, Jr.	7 yeas
36-0302	An act appropriating $1,000,000 from the Community Facilities Trust Fund to the Virgin Islands Diabetes Center of Excellence to finance the establishment of the Chronic Care Management Program in fiscal year 2027 **Proposed by Senator Novelle E. Francis, Jr.**		Senator Clifford A. Joseph, Sr. motioned that **Bill No. 36-0302** be favorably voted upon in the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and forwarded to the full body for further consideration and action under the Closed Rule 314(b)(4) of the Rules of the 36th Legislature. The motion was seconded by Senators Angel l. Bolques, Jr. and Kenneth L. Gittens	7 yeas
36-0335	An act appropriating $600,000 from the St. Croix Capital Improvement Fund to the Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources to provide the		Senator Milton E. Potter motioned that **Bill No. 36-0335** be favorably voted upon in the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and forwarded to the full body	7 yeas

	remaining funding necessary for the Frederiksted Fish Market Rehabilitation Project **Proposed by Senator Hurtbert L. Frederick**		for further consideration and action under the Closed Rule 314(b)(4) of the Rules of the 36th Legislature. The motion was seconded by Senator Angel L. Bolques, Jr.	
36-0357	An act approving the lease agreement between the Government of the Virgin Islands, acting through its Commissioner of the Department of Property and Procurement, and Lovango Islands Holding, LLP d/b/a The Lovango Resort and Beach Club for semi-improved Parcel No. 100-1 Estate Nazareth, No. 1 Red Hook Quarter, St. Thomas **Proposed by Senators Milton E. Potter and Ray Fonseca, by Request of the Governor**		Senator Milton E. Potter motioned that **Bill No. 36-0357** be favorably voted upon in the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and forwarded to the full body for further consideration and action under the Closed Rule 314(b)(4) of the Rules of the 36th Legislature. The motion was seconded by Senator Angel L. Bolques, Jr.	7 yeas
36-0241	A resolution honoring and commending Rashida Hodge for her being on a global scale in the field of technology as well as philanthropic efforts towards the people of the Virgin Islands through the establishment of the Rashida Hodge Endowment Fund at the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands **Proposed by Senator Milton E. Potter**	Senator Milton E. Potter offered **Amendment No. 36-995,** which was seconded by Senators Angel L. Bolques and Clifford A. Jospeh, Sr. the motion was carried. Senator Milton E. Potter offered **Amendment No. 36-992,** which was seconded by Senators Angel L. Bolques and Clifford A. Jospeh, Sr. the motion was carried. Senator Milton E. Potter offered **Amendment**	Senator Milton E. Potter motioned that **Bill No. 36-0241** be favorably voted upon in the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and forwarded to the full body for further consideration and action under the Closed Rule 314(b)(4) of the Rules of the 36th Legislature. The motion was seconded by Senators Clifford A. Joseph, Sr., Angel L. Bolques, Jr. and Avery L. Lewis	7 yeas

		No. 36-1000, which was seconded by Senators Angel L. Bolques and Clifford A. Jospeh, Sr. the motion was carried.		
36-0327	A resolution honoring and commending the St. Thomas Majorettes for over two decades of service to the Virgin Islands community, by promoting discipline, teamwork, leadership development, academic encouragement, personal growth and mentorship for youth, through the performing art of baton twirling **Proposed by Senator Milton E. Potter**		Senator Milton E. Potter motioned that **Bill No. 36-0327** be favorably voted upon in the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and forwarded to the full body for further consideration and action under the Closed Rule 314(b)(4) of the Rules of the 36th Legislature. The motion was seconded by Senator Angel L. Bolques, Jr.	7 yeas
36-0349	An act honoring and commending Austin M. Petersen for his extraordinary artistic contributions to the cultural heritage of the Virgin Islands; formally designating the mural wall along Weymouth Rhymer Highway on St. Thomas as Black Utopia Lane; and appropriating funds for the installation of a plaque at Black Utopia Lane **Proposed by Senator Angel L. Bolques, Jr.**	Senator Angel L. Bolques, Jr. offered **Amendment No. 36-1004,** which was seconded by Senator Clifford A. Jospeh, Sr. the motion was carried.	Senator Angel L. Bolques, Jr. motioned that **Bill No. 36-0349** be favorably voted upon in the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and forwarded to the full body for further consideration and action under the Closed Rule 314(b)(4) of the Rules of the 36th Legislature. The motion was seconded by Senator Avery L. Lewis	7 yeas
36-0350	A resolution honoring and commending the Virgin Islands Conference of the 16th Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Church on its 106th anniversary **Proposed by Senator Hubert L. Frederick**		Senator Clifford A. Joseph, Sr. motioned that **Bill No. 36-0350** be favorably voted upon in the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and forwarded to the full body for further consideration and action under the Closed Rule 314(b)(4) of the Rules of the 36th Legislature. The motion	7 yeas

			was seconded by Senator Milton E. Potter	

The Chair, Sen. Carla J. Joseph, adjourned the Committee on Rules and Judiciary meeting at 7:00 p.m.