

COMMITTEE ON DISASTER RECOVERY AND
INFRASTRUCTURE

10/16/2025-REPORTED OUT TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JUDICIARY

BILL NO. 36-0135

Thirty-Sixth Legislature of the Virgin Islands

August 26, 2025

An act amending title 29 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 5, section 294 regarding expedited building permits for developers

PROPOSED BY: Senator Kenneth L. Gittens

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:

SECTION 1. Title 29 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 5, section 294 is amended by adding the following subsection (h):

“(h) **Expedited Building Permits.** The Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR) may offer expedited building permits for developers who request and pay for expedited processing.

(1) The Commissioner shall establish a fee schedule for expedited building permits based on the complexity, scope, size of the project, and the urgency of the request.

(2) The developer requesting the expedited permit must pay the applicable fee in full prior to the commencement of the expedited review process. Payments for expedited permits will be collected by the DPNR and all fees collected will be

1 allocated towards improving the efficiency of permit processing and related
2 services.

3 (3) DPNR shall provide a clear and transparent outline of the expedited
4 permit fee structure, including specific rates for different types of development
5 projects on the Department's official website. DPNR shall notify the public,
6 including all interested developers, of any changes to the fee schedule.

7 (4) The Governor shall submit a report to the President of the Legislature
8 on the implementation of the expedited building permit fee structure on an annual
9 basis. The report must include information on the amount collected, the number of
10 expedited permits issued, and the effectiveness of the program in reducing delays
11 in construction."

12 **BILL SUMMARY**

13 This bill establishes the framework for allowing the DPNR to offer expedited building
14 permits for a fee and ensures that the process is transparent and subject to legislative oversight.

15 **BR25-0375/July 22, 2025/CBM**