



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: 26-022

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: September 14, 2026

SUBJECT: Committee Report for Rules and Judiciary Meeting on Thursday, September 10, 2026

Please find attached the report for the Committee on Rules and Judiciary meeting held on Thursday, September 10, 2026, in the Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room on St. Croix.

CC: All Senators
Chief Legal Counsel
Archive Division
Journal Division

RULES AND JUDICIARY
September 10, 2026 COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

The Committee on Rules and Judiciary held its meeting on Thursday, September 10, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in the Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room on St. Croix. The Committee considered the following Governor's Nominations and Bills:

- **Mr. Wilbur Smith** – Governor's Nominee for to the Virgin Islands Government Hospitals and Health Facilities Corporation St. Thomas-St. John District Governing Board
- **The Honorable Osbert E. Potter** – Governor's Nominee to Virgin Islands Public Broadcasting System (WTJX) Board of Directors
- **Mr. Henry E. Schjang** – Governor's Nominee to Virgin Islands Public Broadcasting System (WTJX) Board of Directors
- **Mrs. Lisa Brown Williams, Esq.** – Governor's Nominee to Virgin Islands Public Broadcasting System (WTJX) Board of Directors
- **Bill No. 36-0132** – An act amending title 3 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 27 by enacting the "Public Corruption Act" providing for the suspension of retirement benefits of government officials and employees, who are members of the Government Employees Retirement System, upon the conviction of any felony violating public trust, and applying those benefits toward the costs of imprisonment and restitution **Proposed by Senator Kenneth L. Gittens**
- **Bill No. 36-0192** – An act amending title 34 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 15 to enact the Senior Financial Protection and Promissory Note Abuse Prevention Act of 2025 **Proposed by Senator Alma Francis Heyliger, Sponsored by Angel L. Bolques, Jr, and Co-Sponsored by Senator Marise C. James**
- **Bill No. 36-0247** – An act amending title 32 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 2, establishing the Territorial Park Naming Program creating a uniform process for naming and renaming parks, recreational areas, and facilities owned by the Government of the Virgin Islands **Proposed by Senator Marise C. James.**
- **Bill No. 36-0293** – An act approving the lease agreement between the Government of the Virgin Islands and The St. Thomas Cricket Association Inc. for Parcel No-2 of Tract I Estate Nazareth, No. 1 Red Hook Quarter, St. Thomas consisting of 312,150.96 sq. ft. or 7.166 US acres more or less **Proposed by Senator Milton E. Potter, by Request of the Governor and Sponsored by Senators Angel L. Bolques, Jr. and Dwayne M. DeGraff**
- **Bill No. 36-0301** – An act amending title 14 Virgin Islands Code prohibiting incarcerated persons from possessing or using electronic communication or recording devices **Proposed by Senator Kenneth L. Gittens and co-sponsored by Senators Angel L. Bolques, Jr., Novelle E. Francis, Jr., Hubert L. Frederick, Franklin D. Johnson, Clifford A. Joseph, Sr., and Kurt A. Viallet**
- **Bill No. 36-0303** – An act amending title 20 Virgin Islands Code, part II, chapter 38, section 424 to update child passenger safety requirements applicable to rental vehicles **Proposed by Senator Angel L. Bolques, Jr. and co-sponsored by Hubert L. Frederick.**

- **Bill No. 36-0308** – An act appropriating the sum of \$150,000 from the Virgin Islands Education Initiative Fund to the Virgin Islands Department of Education to conduct a biennial fixed asset inventory **Proposed by Senator Kurt A. Violet, Sponsored by Avery L. Lewis, and Co-Sponsored by Senator Ray Fonseca.**
- **Bill No. 36-0311** – An act approving a multi-year lease agreement between the Government of the Virgin Islands, acting through its Commissioner of the Department of Property and Procurement, and L.J. Auto Repairs LLC, for a portion of Parcel No. 22 Revised Submarine Base, No.6 Southside Quarter, St. Thomas, consisting of 3,400 U.S. sq. ft. or 0.078 U.S. acre(s), more-or-less, of semi improved land to operate a garage and auto repair shop **Proposed by Senator Milton E. Potter, by Request of the Governor.**
- **Bill No. 36-0331** – An act approving the lease agreement modification and extension between the Government of the Virgin Islands, acting through the Commissioner of the Department of Property and Procurement, and Paradise Paws VI, LLC, for Parcel No. 180-I Submarine Base, No.6 Southside Quarter, St. Thomas **Proposed by Senator Milton E. Potter, by Request of the Governor**
- **Bill No. 36-0339** – An act approving the lease agreement between the Government of the Virgin Islands, acting through the Commissioner of the Department of Property and Procurement, and Eight One Subbase, LLC for Parcel Nos. 81A and 81B, Submarine Base, No. 6 Southside Quarter, St. Thomas to develop a food court **Proposed by Senators Milton E. Potter, Ray Fonseca and Avery L. Lewis, by Request of the Governor**

The meeting was called to order by the Committee Chair, Sen. Carla J. Joseph at 9:15 am

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

Legislative Reporters

Mrs. Nataya Munoz-Melchoir
 Mrs. Nadine Coley-Williams
 Ms. Tricia Sealey

Office of the Executive Director

Mr. Charles Brown, Jr.
 Ms. Jervon Ottley
 Ms. Myrna Pickard

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Mr. Jamal Potter
Mr. Omari Hicks
Ms. Chaunte Herbert
Mr. Alwyn Baptiste
Ms. Saidah Sekou
Ms. Diana Cruz

Additional Supporting Staff

Ms. C'ianna Francis

Legal Counsel

Ms. Laverne Mills-Williams, Esq.

In block one of the Agenda, the Committee considered Governor's Nominations: **Mr. Wilbur Smith to the Virgin Islands Government Hospitals and Health Facilities Corporation St. Thomas – St. John District Governing Board.** Senators proceeded with one (1) round of three (3) minutes of questioning time for the nominee.

Governor's Nominee Name	Position	Placement	Motion	Vote
Mr. Wilbur Smith	Member	Governing Board of the Virgin Islands Government Hospitals and Health Facilities Corporation St. Thomas – St. John District	Senator Avery Lewis motioned that Mr. Wilbur Smith 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 Clifford Joseph, Sr.	6 yeas 1 absent

In block two of the Agenda, the Committee considered Governor's Nominations: **The Honorable Osbert E. Potter, Mr. Henry E. Schjang, and Mrs. Lisa Brown Williams, Esq. to the Virgin Islands Public Broadcasting System (WTJX) Board of Directors.** Senators proceeded with one (1) round of four (4) minutes of questioning time for the nominees.

Governor's Nominee Name	Position	Placement	Motion	Vote
The Honorable Osbert E. Potter	Member	Virgin Islands Public Broadcasting System (WTJX) Board of Directors	Senator Milton Potter motioned that the Honorable Osbert E. Potter 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 Kenneth Gittens.	7 yeas

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Mr. Henry E. Schjang	Member	Virgin Islands Public Broadcasting System (WTJX) Board of Directors	Senator Kenneth Gittens motioned that Mr. Henry E. Schjang 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 Avery Lewis, Milton Potter, Clifford Joseph, Sr., and Alma Francis Heyliger.	7 yeas
Mrs. Lisa Brown Williams, Esq.	Member	Virgin Islands Public Broadcasting System (WTJX) Board of Directors	Senator Clifford Joseph, Sr., motioned that Mrs. Lisa Brown Williams, Esq., 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 Milton Potter, Avery Lewis, and Kenneth Gittens.	7 yeas

In block three of the Agenda, the Committee considered and heard testimonies on **Bill No. 36-0132**. Senators proceeded with one (1) round of five (5) minutes of debate time.

Ms. Cindy Richardson, Director of the Division of Personnel, Attorney Ian Clement, Chief Deputy Attorney General for the Virgin Islands Department of Justice, and Attorney Ishmael A. Meyers Jr., General Counsel of the GERS testified in support of the bill however suggested several amendments must be made to the bill before it can proceed in the legislative process. Following testimonies, the Committee **voted to hold the bill as amended in committee** at the call of the Chair.

In block four of the Agenda, the Committee considered **Bill Nos. 36-0132, 36-0192, 36-0247, 36-0293, 36-0301, 36-0303, 36-0308, 36-0311, 36-0331, and 36-0339**. Senators proceeded with one (1) round of two (2) minutes of debate time.

Bill Number	Short Title	Amendment	Motion	Vote
36-0132	An act amending title 3 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 27 by enacting the “Public Corruption Act” providing for the suspension of retirement benefits of government officials and employees, who are members of the Government Employees Retirement System, upon the conviction of any felony violating public trust, and applying those benefits toward the costs of imprisonment and restitution	Senator Kenneth Gittens offered Amendment No. 36-762 , which was seconded by Senators Clifford Joseph, Sr. and Milton Potter, the motion was carried.	Senator Kenneth Gittens motioned that Bill No. 36-0132 as amended, be held in committee at the call of the chair . The motion was seconded by Senators Milton Potter, Clifford Joseph Sr, and Avery Lewis.	7 yeas

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	Proposed by Senator Kenneth L. Gittens			
36-0192	An act amending title 34 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 15 to enact the Senior Financial Protection and Promissory Note Abuse Prevention Act of 2025 Proposed by Senator Alma Francis Heyliger, Sponsored by Angel L. Bolques, Jr, and Co-Sponsored by Senator Marise C. James	Senator Alma Francis Heyliger offered Amendment No. 36-894 , which was seconded by Senator Angel Bolques Jr., the motion was carried.	Senator Alma Francis Heyliger motioned that Bill No. 36-0192 as amended , 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 Clifford Joseph, Sr. and Angel Bolques Jr.	7 yeas
36-0247	An act amending title 32 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 2, establishing the Territorial Park Naming Program creating a uniform process for naming and renaming parks, recreational areas, and facilities owned by the Government of the Virgin Islands Proposed by Senator Marise C. James	Senator Avery Lewis offered Amendment No. 36-896 , which was seconded by Senator Clifford Joseph, Sr., the motion was carried.	Senator Avery Lewis motioned that Bill No. 36-0247 as amended , 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 Clifford Joseph Sr.	7 yeas
36-0293	An act approving the lease agreement between the Government of the Virgin Islands and The St. Thomas Cricket Association Inc. for Parcel No-2 of Tract I Estate Nazareth, No. 1 Red Hook Quarter, St. Thomas consisting of 312,150.96 sq. ft. or 7.166 US acres more or less Proposed by Senator Milton E. Potter, by Request of the Governor and Sponsored by Senators Angel L. Bolques, Jr. and Dwayne M. DeGraff		Senator Milton Potter motioned that Bill No. 36-0293 , 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 Clifford Joseph, Sr.	7 yeas
36-0301	An act amending title 14 Virgin Islands Code prohibiting incarcerated persons from possessing or using electronic communication or recording devices Proposed by Senator Kenneth L. Gittens and co-sponsored by Senators Angel L. Bolques, Jr., Novelle E. Francis, Jr. Hubert L.	Senator Kenneth Gittens offered Amendment No. 36-870 , which was seconded by Senators Clifford	Senator Kenneth Gittens motioned that Bill No. 36-0301 as amended , 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

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	Frederick, Franklin D. Johnson, Clifford A. Joseph, Sr., and Kurt A. Violet	Joseph, Sr. and Avery Lewis, the motion was carried.	motion was seconded by Senator Clifford Joseph, Sr.	
36-0303	An act amending title 20 Virgin Islands Code, part II, chapter 38, section 424 to update child passenger safety requirements applicable to rental vehicles Proposed by Senator Angel L. Bolques, Jr. and co-sponsored by Hubert L. Frederick.		Senator Angel Bolques Jr. motioned that Bill No. 36-0303 , 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 Clifford Joseph Sr., Avery Lewis, and Alma Francis Heyliger.	7 yeas
36-0308	An act appropriating the sum of \$150,000 from the Virgin Islands Education Initiative Fund to the Virgin Islands Department of Education to conduct a biennial fixed asset inventory Proposed by Senator Kurt A. Violet, Sponsored by Avery L. Lewis, and Co-Sponsored by Senator Ray Fonseca.		Senator Avery Lewis motioned that Bill No. 36-0308 , 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 Clifford Joseph Sr and Milton Potter.	7 yeas
36-0311	An act approving a multi-year lease agreement between the Government of the Virgin Islands, acting through its Commissioner of the Department of Property and Procurement, and L.J. Auto Repairs LLC, for a portion of Parcel No. 22 Revised Submarine Base, No.6 Southside Quarter, St. Thomas, consisting of 3,400 U.S. sq. ft. or 0.078 U.S. acre(s), more-or-less, of semi improved land to operate a garage and auto repair shop Proposed by Senator Milton E. Potter, by Request of the Governor		Senator Milton Potter motioned that Bill No. 36-0311 , 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 Avery Lewis and Clifford Joseph, Sr.	7 yeas

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36-0331	An act approving the lease agreement modification and extension between the Government of the Virgin Islands, acting through the Commissioner of the Department of Property and Procurement, and Paradise Paws VI, LLC, for Parcel No. 180-I Submarine Base. No.6 Southside Quarter, St. Thomas Proposed by Senator Milton E. Potter, by Request of the Governor		Senator Milton Potter motioned that Bill No. 36-0331 , 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 Avery Lewis and Clifford Joseph, Sr.	7 yeas
36-0339	An act approving the lease agreement between the Government of the Virgin Islands, acting through the Commissioner of the Department of Property and Procurement, and Eight One Subbase, LLC for Parcel Nos. 81A and 81B, Submarine Base, No. 6 Southside Quarter, St. Thomas to develop a food court Proposed by Senators Milton E. Potter, Ray Fonseca and Avery L. Lewis, by Request of the Governor		Senator Milton Potter motioned that Bill No. 36-0339 , 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 Lewis.	7 yeas

The Chair, Sen. Carla J. Joseph, adjourned the Committee on Rules and Judiciary meeting at 5:00 p.m.