



# LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

## REGULAR SESSION - OFFICIAL AGENDA - REVISED

- Date:** Monday, January 12, 2026  
**Time:** 10:00 A.M.  
**Location:** Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall  
**Call to Order:** Honorable Milton E. Potter  
Senate President, 36<sup>th</sup> Legislature  
**Anthems:** National Anthem and Virgin Islands March  
**Invocation:** Reverend Charles L. Brown, Jr., Chaplain  
**Roll Call:** Honorable Avery L. Lewis, Legislative Secretary  
**Committee Reports:**

### CONSIDERATION OF NOMINATION

**Pedro Williams, Esq.**  
Judge, Superior Court, District of St. Thomas/St. John

### CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION

- 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.

### CONSIDERATION OF LEASES

- 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.

#### VIEW IN PERSON

STT: Capitol Building  
STJ: St. John Annex  
STX: Estate Golden Rock

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# LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

**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.

## **CONSIDERATION OF BILLS**

**Bill No. [36-0030](#)**

An act amending title 24 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 1, section 4, increasing the Virgin Islands minimum wage.

**Bill No. [36-0105](#)**

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. [36-0134](#)**

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.

**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.

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# LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

The 36<sup>th</sup> Legislature of the Virgin Islands stands in recess until **6:30 P.M.** to receive The State of the Territory Address from **The Honorable Albert Bryan, Jr.**, Governor of the Virgin Islands.

**Time:** 6:30 P.M.

**Call to Order:** Honorable Milton E. Potter  
Senate President, 36<sup>th</sup> Legislature

**Quorum Call:** Honorable Avery L. Lewis  
Legislative Secretary

**Invocation:** Father Anthony Abraham  
Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church

## **CONSIDERATION OF FLOOR AGENDA:**

The 36<sup>th</sup> Legislature of the Virgin Islands will receive The State of the Territory Address from **The Honorable Albert Bryan, Jr.**, Governor of the Virgin Islands.

**Introduction of The Honorable Stacey E. Plaskett, Esq.**  
Delegate to the United States House of Representatives

**Introduction of The Honorable Tregenza A. Roach, Esq.**  
Lieutenant Governor of the Virgin Islands

**Introduction of The Honorable Albert Bryan, Jr.**  
Governor of the Virgin Islands

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### **VIEW IN PERSON**

STT: Capitol Building  
STJ: St. John Annex  
STX: Estate Golden Rock

### **STAY INFORMED**



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COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, VETERANS  
AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

01/08/2026-REPORTED OUT TO THE FLOOR

12/02/2025-AMENDED AND REPORTED OUT TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JUDICIARY

**BILL NO. 36-0208**

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**Thirty-Sixth Legislature of the Virgin Islands**

**November 17, 2025**

---

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

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**PROPOSED BY:** Senator Avery L. Lewis  
Co-sponsor: Ray Fonseca

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1       **WHEREAS**, on July 4, 2025, President Donald J. Trump signed legislation into law that  
2 increased the rum cover over tax reimbursement for the Virgin Islands from \$10.50 to \$13.25  
3 per proof gallon;

4       **WHEREAS**, the increase represents a significant step forward in supporting the  
5 economy of the Virgin Islands, helping to service public debt, and providing critical assistance  
6 to stabilize the Government Employees Retirement System;

7       **WHEREAS**, the enactment of the legislation reflects years of advocacy and  
8 determination by numerous stakeholders, including the Governor of the Virgin Islands, the  
9 Legislature, the Delegate to Congress, and members of the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of  
10 Representatives;



COMMITTEE ON BUDGET, APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCE

01/08/2026-REPORTED OUT TO THE FLOOR

11/17/2025-REPORTED OUT TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JUDICIARY

05/23/2025-HELD IN COMMITTEE

**BILL NO. 36-0089**

**Thirty-Sixth Legislature of the Virgin Islands**

**May 8, 2025**

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

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**PROPOSED BY:** Senator Milton E. Potter, by Request of the Governor  
Co-sponsor: Marvin M. Blyden

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1       **WHEREAS**, on March 19, 2025, the Government of the Virgin Islands, acting through  
2       the Commissioner of the Virgin Islands Department of Property and Procurement, and PEO  
3       Productions, LLC d/b/a WSTA Radio, entered into a lease agreement for Parcel No. 121  
4       Submarine Base, No. 6, Southside Quarter, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, consisting of 12,160.35  
5       U.S. sq. ft. or 0.279 U.S. acres, more-or-less, of improved land zoned “I-2” (Industrial-Light),  
6       as shown on P.W.D Drawing No. D9-1220-T74, Parcel No. 167 Sub Base, No. 6, Southside  
7       Quarter, St. Thomas, consisting of 2,971.58 U.S. sq. ft. or 0.0682 U.S. acres, more-or-less, of  
8       improved land zoned “I-2” (Industrial-Light), as shown on P.W.D Drawing No. D9-2626-T84,  
9       and Parcel No. 171 Sub Base, No. 6, Southside Quarter, St. Thomas, consisting of 1,437.75

1 U.S. sq. ft. or 0.033 U.S. acres, more-or-less, of improved land zoned “I-2” (Industrial-Light),  
2 as shown on P.W.D Drawing No. D9-2718-T84;

3 **WHEREAS**, on April 1, 2025, the Governor of the Virgin Islands approved the lease  
4 agreement between the Government of the Virgin Islands and PEO Productions, LLC d/b/a  
5 WSTA Radio;

6 **WHEREAS**, the premises is leased for an initial term of 20 years, with an option to renew  
7 for two additional terms of five years each, at an initial annual rent of \$30,000 payable in equal  
8 monthly installments of \$2,500;

9 **WHEREAS**, the premises will be used to operate a radio station, radio tower and for  
10 other related purposes;

11 **WHEREAS**, title 31 Virgin Islands Code, part II, chapter 21, section 205, subsection (c)  
12 provides that in addition to the Governor's approval of a lease, the Legislature of the Virgin  
13 Islands must also approve the lease; Now, Therefore,

14 ***Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:***

15 **SECTION 1.** Pursuant to 31 V.I.C. § 205(c), the Legislature of the Virgin Islands  
16 approves the lease agreement between the Government of the Virgin Islands and PEO  
17 Productions, LLC d/b/a WSTA Radio, for Parcel No. 121 Submarine Base, No. 6, Southside  
18 Quarter, St. Thomas, Virgin .Islands, consisting of 12,160.35 U.S. sq. ft. or 0.279 U.S. acres,  
19 more-or-less, of improved land zoned “I-2” (Industrial-Light), as shown on P.W.D Drawing  
20 No. D9-1220-T74, Parcel No. 167 Sub Base, No. 6, Southside Quarter, St. Thomas, consisting  
21 of 2,971.58 U.S. sq. ft. or 0.0682 U.S. acres, more-or-less, of improved land zoned “I-2”  
22 (Industrial-Light), as shown on P.W.D Drawing No. D9-2626-T84, and Parcel No. 171 Sub  
23 Base, No. 6, Southside Quarter, St. Thomas, consisting of 1,437.75 U.S. sq. ft. or 0.033 U.S.  
24 acres, more-or-less, of improved land zoned “I-2” (Industrial-Light), as shown on P.W.D

1 Drawing No. D9-2718-T84, for an initial term of 20 years, with an option to renew for two  
2 additional terms of five years each, at an initial annual rent of \$30,000 payable in equal monthly  
3 installments of \$2,500. The premises will be used to operate a radio station, radio tower and for  
4 other related purposes.

5 **Bill Summary**

6 The bill approves a 20-year lease between the Government of the Virgin Islands and PEO  
7 Productions, LLC d/b/a WSTA Radio, for Parcel No. 121 Submarine Base, No. 6, Southside  
8 Quarter, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, Parcel No. 167 Sub Base, No. 6, Southside Quarter, St.  
9 Thomas, V.I., and Parcel No. 171 Sub Base, No. 6, Southside Quarter, St. Thomas, V.I., to  
10 operate a radio station, radio tower and for other related purposes.

11 **BR25-0601/April 23, 2025/GC**

12 **G36-007**

COMMITTEE ON BUDGET, APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCE

01/08/2026-REPORTED OUT TO THE FLOOR

11/04/2025-REPORTED OUT TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JUDICIARY

06/18/2025-HELD IN COMMITTEE

**BILL NO. 36-0092**

**Thirty-Sixth Legislature of the Virgin Islands**

**May 19, 2025**

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

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**PROPOSED BY:** Senators Angel L. Bolques, Jr., Marvin A. Blyden  
and Avery L. Lewis by Request of the Governor

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1       **WHEREAS**, on May 5, 2025, the Government of the Virgin Islands, acting through the  
2       Commissioner of the Virgin Islands Department of Property and Procurement, and St. John  
3       Taxi Services Corporation, entered into a lease agreement for Parcel No. D-2 Estate Cruz Bay  
4       Town, Cruz Bay Quarter, St. John, consisting of 2,700 U.S. sq. ft. or 0.062 U.S. acre(s) of land,  
5       more-or-less, zoned “W-1” (Waterfront Pleasure), as shown on O.L.G. No. D9-8844-T014;

6       **WHEREAS**, on May 12, 2025, the Governor of the Virgin Islands approved the lease  
7       agreement between the Government of the Virgin Islands and St. John Taxi Services  
8       Corporation;

9       **WHEREAS**, the premises is leased for an initial term of 20 years, with an option to renew  
10      for two additional terms of five years each, at an initial annual rent of \$9,600 payable in equal  
11      monthly installments of \$800;



COMMITTEE ON BUDGET, APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCE

01/08/2026-REPORTED OUT TO THE FLOOR

11/17/2025-AMENDED AND REPORTED OUT TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JUDICIARY

**BILL NO. 36-0030**

**Thirty-Sixth Legislature of the Virgin Islands**

**February 27, 2025**

An act amending title 24 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 1, section 4, increasing the Virgin Islands minimum wage

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**PROPOSED BY:** Senator Franklin D. Johnson  
Sponsors: Marvin A. Blyden, Dwayne M. DeGraff  
and Avery L. Lewis  
Co-sponsors: Novelle E. Francis, Jr., Marise C. James  
and Ray Fonseca

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1       **WHEREAS**, the Government of the United States first established a minimum wage in  
2       1938 with the enactment of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938; and

3       **WHEREAS**, the minimum wage has proven to be one of the most effective and enduring  
4       public policy tools to ensure that working people enjoy an acceptable standard of living and  
5       quality of life; and

6       **WHEREAS**, studies have demonstrated that increases in the minimum wage improve  
7       worker productivity and workplace retention, and positively affects consumer demand; and

8       **WHEREAS**, although the federal minimum wage has been raised an average of every  
9       three years between 1938 and 2009, it remains stagnant at \$7.25 per hour since 2009; and

1           **WHEREAS**, the Virgin Islands and thirty-three other states and territories of the United  
2 States have found it necessary to enact minimum wage increases through legislation or  
3 automatic mechanisms for periodic increase; and

4           **WHEREAS**, studies have found that the highest rates of child poverty exist in states that  
5 have not raised their minimum wages above the federal standard; and

6           **WHEREAS**, an economic impact study undertaken by the Virgin Islands Bureau of  
7 Economic Research found that the minimum wage increases enacted by Act No. 7856 improved  
8 conditions for both workers and businesses in the Virgin Islands; and

9           **WHEREAS**, Act No. 7856 mandated the appointment of members to the Wage Board  
10 which is tasked with periodically reviewing and revising the minimum wage; and

11           **WHEREAS**, the failure of successive governors to appoint members to the Wage Board  
12 has resulted in the Virgin Islands minimum wage remaining at \$10.50 since 2018; and

13           **WHEREAS**, housing market studies have found that housing rents rose by an average of  
14 nearly 100% between 2017 and 2023; and

15           **WHEREAS**, the combination of rising prices and wage stagnation have created an  
16 affordability crisis wherein many Virgin Islands families simply cannot meet their daily needs;  
17 and

18           **WHEREAS**, a low minimum wage contributes to an emigration of labor and a reduction  
19 in workforce capacity in the Virgin Islands; Now, Therefore

20 ***Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:***

21           **SECTION 1.** Title 24 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 1, section 4, is amended as follows:

22           (a) In subsection (a):

23                   (1) By inserting a comma after “students”;

24                   (2) By striking “\$8.35” and inserting “\$12.00;

- 1 (3) By striking “\$9.50” and inserting “\$14.00”;
- 2 (4) By striking “June 1, 2017” and inserting “June 1, 2027”;
- 3 (5) By striking “\$10.50” and inserting “\$15.00”;
- 4 (6) By striking “June 1, 2018” and inserting “June 1, 2028”;
- 5 (7) By striking “June 1, 2019 and inserting; “June 1 2029”;
- 6 (8) By striking “2020” and inserting “2030”; and
- 7 (9) By inserting at the end of the subsection “, whichever is greater”.
- 8 (b) In subsection (b) by striking “December 31, 2018” and inserting “December 31,”
- 9 2029”.

10 **BILL SUMMARY**

11 This bill amends title 24 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 1, section 4 by increasing the  
12 Virgin Islands minimum wages.

13 **BR25-0269/February 24, 2025/LMW**

14 **..\..\..\AMENDS\36th Legislature\JOHNSON, FRANKLIN D\Amendment 36-**  
15 **622\Amendment No. 36-622 (REVISED I) - DRAFTED ON YELLOW.docx**

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HOSPITALS AND HUMAN SERVICES

01/08/2026-REPORTED OUT TO THE FLOOR

12/04/2025-AMENDED AND REPORTED OUT TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JUDICIARY

10/09/2025-REASSIGNED TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY, JUSTICE AND  
PUBLIC SAFETY

09/04/2025-AMENDED AND REPORTED OUT TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JUDICIARY

08/20/2025-REASSIGNED TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY, JUSTICE AND  
PUBLIC SAFETY

**BILL NO. 36-0105**

**Thirty-Sixth Legislature of the Virgin Islands**

**June 24, 2025**

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

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**PROPOSED BY:** Senators Clifford A. Joseph, Sr., and Marise C. James  
Co-sponsor: Hubert L. Frederick

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1       **SECTION 1.** Title 7 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 13, subchapter III is amended as

2 follows:

3       (a) In section 200:

4             (1) by striking subsections (d) and (e); and

5             (2) by adding the following definitions alphabetically and redesignating the  
6 remaining definitions accordingly:

7             “( ) “Cannabidiol” or “CBD” means a non-psychoactive compound found in  
8 Cannabis sativa L. plants that contains not more than 0.3 percent delta-9  
9 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) on a dry-weight basis.”

1           ( ) “Container” means the innermost wrapping, package, or vessel in direct  
2           contact with a hemp-derived cannabinoid product and in which the product is  
3           enclosed for retail sale, including a jar, bottle, bag, box, packet, can, carton, or  
4           cartridge.

5           ( ) “Hemp” means all parts and derivatives of *Cannabis sativa* L. plants, including  
6           their extracts, cannabinoids, isomers, acids, salts, and salts of isomers, with a total  
7           concentration of delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), including  
8           tetrahydrocannabinolic acid (THCA), of not more than 0.3 percent on a dry-weight  
9           basis.

10          ( ) “Hemp-derived cannabinoid product” means any intermediate or final product  
11          derived from hemp that contains cannabinoids in any form and is intended for  
12          human or animal use, including for inhalation, ingestion, or topical application.

13          ( ) “Industrial hemp” means hemp grown for non-cannabinoid purposes,  
14          including fiber, seed oil, and other agricultural or manufacturing uses, and is  
15          included within the definition of hemp.”

16          (b) By inserting the following new section 200a:

17          **“§ 200a. Unlawful sale, possession, or manufacture of intoxicating hemp products**  
18          **or artificially derived cannabinoids**

19          (a) It is unlawful for any person to sell, possess, or manufacture intoxicating hemp  
20          products or artificially derived cannabinoids in the Virgin Islands without a valid license or  
21          permit issued by the Office of Cannabis Regulation.

22          (b) For purposes of this section, intoxicating hemp products and artificially derived  
23          cannabinoids are not included within the definitions of hemp or industrial hemp and include  
24          the following:

1           (1) Hemp-derived products containing cannabinoids that are not capable of being  
2 naturally produced by the *Cannabis sativa* L. plant;

3           (2) Cannabinoids that can be naturally produced by the *Cannabis sativa* L. plant  
4 but that have been synthesized, chemically altered, or manufactured outside of the plant,  
5 including through the isomerization of cannabidiol (CBD), tetrahydrocannabinolic acid  
6 (THCA), delta-6 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), delta-8 THC, or delta-10 THC, and any  
7 compounds of these structures, regardless of numerical designation, because  
8 nomenclature is not standardized;

9           (3) Products containing any quantifiable amount of THCA or other cannabinoids  
10 that have, or are marketed to have, similar effects as THC on humans or animals;

11           (4) Any cannabinoid other than delta-9 THC that is naturally derived and that,  
12 when introduced into the human body, is reasonably likely to cause intoxication or  
13 impairment based on known effects on perception, cognition, or behavior, or that has a  
14 psychoactive effect or is marketed or labeled as having euphoric, intoxicating, or  
15 psychotropic effects; and

16           (5) “Artificially derived cannabinoid” means a cannabinoid extracted from a  
17 hemp plant or hemp plant parts whose chemical composition has been altered after  
18 extraction to create a different cannabinoid or other chemical compound by applying a  
19 catalyst other than heat or light. The term includes any tetrahydrocannabinol created  
20 from cannabidiol (CBD).”

21 (c) In section 201, by striking subsection (g) and inserting:

22           “(g) Before obtaining a business license from the Department of Licensing and  
23 Consumer Affairs, a person or entity seeking to sell or manufacture hemp or hemp-  
24 derived products, including cannabidiol (CBD) and other non-psychoactive hemp  
25 products, shall first obtain a permit from the Commission.”

1 (d) Section 203 is amended as follows:

2 (1) in the introductory clause by striking “Commissioner and the University of  
3 the Virgin Islands” and inserting “the Commission” and by striking “jointly”;

4 (2) in paragraph (3) by striking “Commissioner’s” and inserting “the  
5 Commission’s”; and

6 (3) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (6) and inserting the following  
7 new paragraph (5):

8 “(5) The permit approval process for hemp retailers and manufacturers and  
9 for the fees associated with the processing and issuance of the permit.”;

10 (e) In section 204, by striking “for use by the Commissioner” and inserting “to be used  
11 by the Commission”; and

12 (f) by adding the following section 209:

13 **“§ 209. Penalties**

14 (a) If the Commission finds that a person or entity has violated any provision of  
15 this subchapter, the Commission shall impose a civil fine of \$2,500 for the first offense  
16 and not less than \$5,000 for a second offense within a twelve-month period. If a person or  
17 entity violates the provisions of this subchapter on two or more occasions, the Commission  
18 may, after notice and an opportunity to be heard, revoke that person’s or entity’s permit.

19 (b) The Commission shall notify the Department of Licensing and Consumer  
20 Affairs when a person or entity has violated the provisions of this subchapter on three or  
21 more occasions within an eighteen-month period. After notice and an opportunity to be  
22 heard, the Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs may revoke that person’s or  
23 entity’s business license. A person or business entity has the right to appeal the decision  
24 of the Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs.

1 (c) The Commission shall deposit 25 percent of all monies collected under this  
2 section into the Agriculture Revolving Fund, 25 percent into the Consumer Protection  
3 Fund, 25 percent into the Cannabis Fund, and 25 percent into the Health Revolving Fund.”

4 **SECTION 2.** Title 33 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 111, section 3018 is amended as  
5 follows:

6 (a) In subsection (c) by inserting the following paragraph (1) after “constituted of”:

7 “(1) All monies collected by the Industrial Hemp Commission under title 7  
8 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 13, subchapter III”; and by redesignating the remaining  
9 items accordingly; and

10 (b) In subsection (d), at the end of the first sentence after “industry” by inserting “,  
11 except that monies deposited into the Fund under 7 V.IC. § 204 must be used exclusively by  
12 the Industrial Hemp Commission to administer and enforce the provisions of 7 V.I.C., ch.  
13 13, subch. III.”

14 **SECTION 3.** Retailers that possess tetrahydrocannabinolic acid (THCA), delta-6  
15 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), delta-8 THC, delta-10 THC, or other intoxicating cannabinoid  
16 products on or after 60 days following the effective date of this act shall, within the 60 day  
17 period, submit an inventory list of such products to the Industrial Hemp Commission and the  
18 Office of Cannabis Regulation.

19 Each retailer shall have 90 days from the effective date of this act to sell or otherwise  
20 dispose of its remaining inventory in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Office  
21 of Cannabis Regulation.

22 After the 90 day period, the Office of Cannabis Regulation, in coordination with the  
23 Industrial Hemp Commission, shall establish and implement a plan for the lawful disposition  
24 of any remaining unsold products.

1           **SECTION 4.** (a) Title 19 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 34, section 776 is amended by  
2 adding the following definitions alphabetically and redesignating the remaining definitions  
3 accordingly:

4           “(□) “Artificially Derived Cannabinoid” means a cannabinoid extracted from a  
5 hemp plant or hemp plant parts whose chemical composition is altered after extraction to  
6 create a different cannabinoid or other chemical compound by applying a catalyst other  
7 than heat or light. The term includes any tetrahydrocannabinol created from cannabidiol  
8 (CBD), and any naturally derived cannabinoid other than delta-9 THC that, when  
9 introduced into the human body, is reasonably likely to cause intoxication or impairment  
10 based on known effects on perception, cognition, or behavior, or that has a psychoactive  
11 effect or is marketed or labeled as having euphoric, intoxicating, or psychotropic effects.

12           “(□) “Intoxicating Hemp Product” means a hemp-derived product containing  
13 cannabinoids that are not capable of being naturally produced by the *Cannabis sativa L.*  
14 plant; cannabinoids that are capable of being naturally produced by the *Cannabis sativa*  
15 *L.* plant but that have been synthesized, chemically altered, or manufactured outside of  
16 the plant, including through the isomerization of cannabidiol (CBD),  
17 tetrahydrocannabinolic acid (THCA), delta-6 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), delta-8 THC,  
18 or delta-10 THC, and, because nomenclature is not standardized, compounds of these  
19 structures regardless of numerical designation. The term also includes products  
20 containing any quantifiable amount of tetrahydrocannabinolic acid or other cannabinoids  
21 that have similar effects, or are marketed to have similar effects, as THC on humans or  
22 animals.

23           “(□) “Intoxicating Hemp/Artificially Derived Cannabinoid Retailer License”  
24 means a license issued under this chapter authorizing a person to operate a business, as

1 described in section 794a of this title, that sells intoxicating hemp and artificially derived  
2 cannabinoid products.”

3 (b) Title 19 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 34, section 777(k) is amended by inserting  
4 “and Intoxicating Hemp/Artificially Derived Cannabinoid” at the end of the first sentence.

5 (c) Title 19 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 34, section 778(a) is amended:

6 (1) in paragraph (9), by striking “and”;

7 (2) in paragraph (10), by inserting “and” at the end of the sentence; and

8 (3) by inserting the following new paragraph (11):

9 “(11) Intoxicating Hemp/Artificially Derived Cannabinoid Retailer License.”

10 (d) Title 19 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 34, sections 787(b) and 787(d) are  
11 amended:

12 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at the end;

13 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

14 (3) by inserting the following new paragraph (3):

15 “(3) Up to six Intoxicating Hemp/Artificially Derived Cannabinoid  
16 Retailer Licenses.”

17 (e) Title 19 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 34, section 787(c) is amended:

18 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at the end;

19 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

20 (3) by inserting the following new paragraph (3):

21 “(3) Up to two Intoxicating Hemp/Artificially Derived Cannabinoid  
22 Retailer Licenses.”

23 (f) Title 19 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 34 is amended by adding the following new  
24 section 794a:

1           **“§ 794a. Intoxicating Hemp/Artificially Derived Cannabinoid Retailer**  
2           **License**

3           (a) An Intoxicating Hemp/Artificially Derived Cannabinoid Retailer License may not  
4 be issued to a gas station, convenience store, or grocery store, and a licensee may not operate  
5 within 250 feet of a school or church.

6           (b) The Office of Cannabis Regulation shall promulgate regulations within 90 days of  
7 the effective date of this section specifying acceptable forms of identification for confirming  
8 an individual’s age and residency.

9           (c) The Office of Cannabis Regulation shall promulgate regulations within 90 days of  
10 the effective date of this section governing the testing, packaging, and tracking of all  
11 intoxicating hemp and artificially derived cannabinoid products sold in the territory.

12           (d) An Intoxicating Hemp/Artificially Derived Cannabinoid Retailer shall implement  
13 reasonable measures to verify that all purchasers are 21 years of age or older.

14           (e) All intoxicating hemp and artificially derived cannabinoid products sold by a  
15 licensee must be tested by an independent ISO-certified laboratory. Licensees shall partner  
16 with the University of the Virgin Islands or contract with accredited laboratories in Puerto Rico  
17 or in another jurisdiction approved by the Office of Cannabis Regulation.

18           (f) An Intoxicating Hemp/Artificially Derived Cannabinoid Retailer may not sell any  
19 product that mimics candy or snack items, and all product packaging must be child-resistant  
20 and tamper-evident.”

21           (g) Title 19 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 34, section 800b(a) and (b) are amended by  
22 inserting “and an Intoxicating Hemp/Artificially Derived Cannabinoid Retailer” after  
23 “Dispensary.”

24           (h) Title 19 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 34, section 800c(b) is amended:

1 (1) in subsection (4) by inserting “and an Intoxicating Hemp/Artificially Derived  
2 Cannabinoid Retailer” after “Dispensary.”; and

3 (2) in subsection (5), by striking “; and”; and

4 (3) by inserting the following new subsection (7):

5 “(7) \$15,000 for an Intoxicating Hemp/Artificially Derived Cannabinoid  
6 Retailer License.”

7 **SECTION 5.** Nothing in this act prevents the Virgin Islands Police Department, the  
8 Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs or the Department of Health from seizing  
9 illegal products, making arrests or issuing citations

10 **BILL SUMMARY**

11 This bill prohibits the possession, sale, or manufacture of tetrahydrocannabinolic acid,  
12 delta-6 tetrahydrocannabinol (“THC”), delta-8 THC, or delta-10 THC in the Virgin Islands;  
13 provides for the Industrial Hemp Commission to issue permits for the retail sale or manufacture  
14 of these products; removes the Commissioner of Agriculture and the University of the Virgin  
15 Islands from having rulemaking authority; adds a penalty section for violations of the  
16 subchapter; and provides that 50% of monies collected for penalties must be deposited into the  
17 Agriculture Revolving Fund to used exclusively by the Hemp Commission to administer and  
18 enforce the provisions of the subchapter and 50% to be deposited in the Consumer Protection  
19 Fund.

20 **BR25-0402/June 23, 2025/SLR**

21 [..\..\..\AMENDS\36th Legislature\JOSEPH, SR., CLIFFORD A\Amendment 36-  
22 565\Amendment 36-565 - DRAFTED ON YELLOW.docx](#)

23 [S:\AMENDS\36th Legislature\JOSEPH, SR., CLIFFORD A\Amendment 36-  
24 527\Amendment 36-527 - DRAFTED ON YELLOW.docx](#)

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS,  
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

01/08/2026-AMENDED AND REPORTED OUT TO THE FLOOR

10/27/2025-AMENDED AND REPORTED OUT TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JUDICIARY

**BILL NO. 36-0134**

**Thirty- Sixth Legislature of the Virgin Islands**

**August 26, 2025**

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

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**PROPOSED BY:** Senators Marise C. James and Clifford A. Joseph Sr.  
Sponsor: Avery L. Lewis

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

2       **SECTION 1.** Title 18 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 1, section 2 is repealed and reenacted  
3 with amendments as follows:

4       **“§ 2. Government personnel candidacy for public office; leaves of absence; service**  
5 **on Boards**

6       (a) Except for judicial officers and law clerks as delineated in subsection (f), persons  
7 employed in the legislative, executive, or judicial branches of the Government of the Virgin  
8 Islands are eligible for nomination as candidates for public office, and no employer may take  
9 or threaten to take any personnel action against the employee because of the candidacy.

10       (b) A government employee may become a candidate for public office and remain in  
11 active employment status with the Government of the Virgin Islands without taking a leave of  
12 absence from governmental duties; except that a government employee seeking public office

1 must be granted and take paid leave from their accumulated annual leave 30 days prior to the  
2 general election.

3 (c) A government employee retains all the rights and obligations of citizenship  
4 provided in the Constitution and the laws of the United States and the laws of the Virgin  
5 Islands; however, no government employee may:

6 (1) actively manage a campaign, or campaign for public office or otherwise  
7 engage in political activity while on duty or when the employee is expected to perform  
8 services for which the employee receives compensation from the Government; or

9 (2) use the authority of the employee's position, or utilize Government funds,  
10 buildings, equipment, or materials, or otherwise misuse the employee's position in the  
11 Virgin Islands Government to secure support for or oppose any candidate, party, or issue  
12 in an election involving candidates for office or party nominations or affect the results  
13 thereof.

14 (d) A government employee may become a candidate for the Virgin Islands Board of  
15 Education, as provided for under 3 V.I.C. § 97, or a candidate for the Virgin Islands Board of  
16 Elections, as provided under section 41 of this title, except that no employee of the Board of  
17 Education or the Board of Election, if elected to the Board of which the candidate is an  
18 employee, may serve as an employee of that Board during his incumbency.

19 (e) No member of the Board of Elections may be a candidate for any other public office  
20 during the term for which the member was elected. A member of the Board of Elections must  
21 resign his position on the Board before seeking any other public office.

22 (f) This section does not apply to justices of the Supreme Court, judicial officers and  
23 law clerks who are governed by 4 V.I.C., subchapter IIA, section 27, the Virgin Islands Code  
24 of Judicial Conduct, Sup. Ct. R. 213, and the Virgin Islands Code of Conduct for Law Clerks,  
25 Sup. Ct. R. 103, or government employees becoming candidates for party offices or serving as  
26 party officers.

1 (g) This section does not apply to campaign activity governed solely by federal law.  
2 Notwithstanding any contrary provisions of this section, government employees who are paid  
3 in whole by federal loans or grants, or whose jobs are related to an activity that receives federal  
4 funds, are subject to and must comply with the restrictions imposed under title 5 U.S.C. §§  
5 1501-1508 and by any other applicable law or regulation of the United States.”

6 **BILL SUMMARY**

7 The bill amends title 18 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 1, section 2 to allow government  
8 employees to run for political office while actively employed, unless specifically prohibited by  
9 federal or other laws.

10 **BR25-0326/July 25, 2025/SLR**

11 **[S:\AMENDS\36th Legislature\FRANCIS HEYLIGER, ALMA\Amendment 36-](#)**  
12 **[610\Amendment No. 36-610 - \(REVISED\) DRAFTED ON YELLOW.docx](#)**

13 **[S:\AMENDS\36th Legislature\JAMES, MARISE C\Amendment 36-605\Amendment No.](#)**  
14 **[36-605-DRAFTED ON YELLOW.docx](#)**

01/08/2026-REPORTED OUT TO THE FLOOR

12/15/2025-REPORTED OUT TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JUDICIARY

**BILL NO. 36-0184**

**Thirty-Sixth Legislature of the Virgin Islands**

**September 10, 2025**

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

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**PROPOSED BY:** Senators Milton E. Potter, and Novelle E. Francis, Jr.  
by Request of the Governor

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1       **WHEREAS**, it is imperative that all United States jurisdictions, including the Virgin  
2 Islands, periodically update their insurance laws commensurate with the ever-evolving  
3 insurance industry to strengthen the solvency regulation of insurance companies doing business  
4 in the United States; and

5       **WHEREAS**, the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (“NAIC”) is a  
6 nonprofit organization comprised of all insurance regulators in the United States, has  
7 established and continues to establish core accreditation standards and a comprehensive set of  
8 laws, known as Model Laws and Regulations, to assist United States jurisdictions in their  
9 regulation of their multi-state domestic insurance industry;

1           **WHEREAS**, jurisdictions in the United States that are accredited by the NAIC have been  
2 required to adopt, and to continue to adopt, NAIC Model Laws and Regulations, to achieve and  
3 maintain accreditation status with the NAIC;

4           **WHEREAS**, on December 6, 2019, the Virgin Islands, through the Office of the  
5 Lieutenant Governor, Division of Banking, Insurance and Financial Regulation (“Division”),  
6 was unanimously accredited by the NAIC and on November 16, 2024, was unanimously re-  
7 accredited by the NAIC, an achievement of immeasurable significance, which requires the  
8 Virgin Islands to enact certain NAIC Model Laws, and to promulgate related NAIC regulations,  
9 to maintain its accreditation status;

10           **WHEREAS**, on July 20, 2017, Act No. 8003, also known as “The Virgin Islands  
11 Insurance Holding Company System Regulatory Act”, which is an NAIC Model Law, was  
12 signed into law, and was later codified as title 22 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 14;

13           **WHEREAS**, in 2020 and 2021, the NAIC revised provisions of the Insurance Holding  
14 Company System Regulatory Act Model Law, to include provisions that are related to a group  
15 capital calculation, liquidity stress test and receivership;

16           **WHEREAS**, as of February 21, 2025, the provisions that are related to the group capital  
17 calculation and liquidity stress test have been adopted as amendments to law in 35 United States  
18 jurisdictions, and are currently under consideration in another 10 United States jurisdictions,  
19 and the provisions that are related to receivership have been adopted as amendments to law in  
20 19 United States jurisdictions, and are currently under consideration in another seven United  
21 States jurisdictions;

22           **WHEREAS**, the amendments to the NAIC’s Insurance Holding Company System  
23 Regulatory Act Model Law include provisions that are an NAIC accreditation requirement, and

1 as such, the Virgin Islands, as an NAIC accredited jurisdiction, must adopt these provisions for  
2 the Virgin Islands to maintain its NAIC accreditation; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the revisions to the NAIC’s Insurance Holding Company System  
4 Regulatory Act Model Law will:

- 5 (1) enhance the supervision of an insurance group;
- 6 (2) provide key financial information on an insurance group;
- 7 (3) quantify risk across an insurance group;
- 8 (4) support transparency into how capital is allocated in an insurance group; and
- 9 (5) ensure the continuation of essential services that are provided by affiliates of  
10 insurers that may be transitioning to a receivership, to mitigate potential disruptions in  
11 insurance operations and protect policyholders; Now, therefore,

12 ***Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:***

13 **SECTION 1.** Title 22 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 14 is amended as follows:

14 (a) Section 321 is amended by striking “(1), (2), and (3)” of subsection (h), and  
15 inserting “(A), (B) and (C)”, respectively; redesignating the subsections as paragraphs (1)  
16 through (16), respectively; and by inserting the following definitions in their respective  
17 alphabetical order:

18 “Group Capital Calculation Instructions” means the group capital calculation  
19 instructions as adopted by the NAIC and as amended by the NAIC from time to  
20 time in accordance with the procedures adopted by the NAIC.”

21 “NAIC Liquidity Stress Test Framework” means a separate NAIC publication  
22 which includes a history of the NAIC’s development of regulatory liquidity stress  
23 testing, the scope criteria applicable for a specific data year, and the liquidity stress

1 test instructions and reporting templates for a specific data year, such scope criteria,  
2 instructions and reporting template being as adopted by the NAIC and as amended  
3 by the NAIC from time to time in accordance with the procedures adopted by the  
4 NAIC.”

5 “Scope Criteria” means, as detailed in the NAIC liquidity stress test framework, the  
6 designated exposure bases along with minimum magnitudes thereof for the  
7 specified data year, used to establish a preliminary list of insurers considered scoped  
8 into the NAIC liquidity stress test framework for that data year.”

9 (b) Section 323, subsection (b), paragraph (12) is amended by inserting “(1)” after  
10 “section 325(*l*)”.

11 (c) Section 325 is amended as follows:

12 (1) In subsection (d) by adding a sentence immediately following the last  
13 sentence that reads: “The definition of materiality provided in this subsection is not  
14 applicable to the group capital calculation or the liquidity stress test framework.”

15 (2) In subsection (*l*), by designating the existing language paragraph (1) and  
16 adding the following paragraphs (2) and (3):

17 “(2) Except as provided below, the ultimate controlling person of every  
18 insurer subject to registration shall concurrently file with the registration an annual  
19 group capital calculation as directed by the lead state commissioner. The report  
20 must be completed in accordance with the NAIC group capital calculation  
21 instructions, which may permit the lead state commissioner to allow a controlling  
22 person who is not the ultimate controlling person to file the group capital  
23 calculation. The report must be filed with the lead state commissioner of the

1 insurance holding company system as determined by the commissioner in  
2 accordance with the procedures in the Financial Analysis Handbook adopted by the  
3 NAIC. Insurance holding company systems described below are exempt from  
4 filing the group capital calculation.

5 (A) An insurance holding company system that has only one insurer  
6 in its holding company structure, that only writes business and is only  
7 licensed in its domestic state and assumes no business from any other insurer.

8 (B) An insurance holding company system that must perform a group  
9 capital calculation specified by the United States Federal Reserve Board. The  
10 lead state commissioner shall request the calculation from the Federal  
11 Reserve Board under the terms of information sharing agreements in effect.  
12 If the Federal Reserve Board cannot share the calculation with the lead state  
13 commissioner, the insurance holding company system is not exempt from the  
14 group capital calculation filing.

15 (C) An insurance holding company system whose non-United States  
16 group-wide supervisor is in a reciprocal jurisdiction as described in section  
17 1443(h) that recognizes the United States state regulatory approach to group  
18 supervision and group capital.

19 (D) An insurance holding company system:

20 (i) that provides information to the lead state that meets the  
21 requirements for accreditation under the NAIC financial standards and  
22 accreditation program, either directly or indirectly through the group-  
23 wide supervisor, who has determined that the information is satisfactory

1 to allow the lead state to comply with the NAIC group supervision  
2 approach, as detailed in the NAIC Financial Analysis Handbook, and

3 (ii) whose non-United States group-wide supervisor who is not  
4 in a reciprocal jurisdiction recognizes and accepts, as specified by the  
5 Commissioner in regulation, the group capital calculation as the world-  
6 wide group capital assessment for United States insurance groups that  
7 operate in that jurisdiction.

8 (E) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (I), paragraph (2),  
9 subparagraphs (C) and (D), a lead state commissioner shall require the group  
10 capital calculation for United States operations of any non-United States  
11 based insurance holding company system where, after any necessary  
12 consultation with other supervisors or officials, it is considered appropriate  
13 by the lead state commissioner for prudential oversight and solvency  
14 monitoring purposes or for ensuring the competitiveness of the insurance  
15 marketplace.

16 (F) Notwithstanding the exemptions from filing the group capital  
17 calculation stated in subsection (I), paragraph (2), subparagraphs (A) through  
18 (D), the lead state commissioner has the discretion to exempt the ultimate  
19 controlling person from filing the annual group capital calculation or to accept  
20 a limited group capital filing or report in accordance with criteria as specified  
21 by the commissioner in regulation.

22 (G) If the lead state commissioner determines that an insurance  
23 holding company system no longer meets one or more of the requirements for

1 an exemption from filing the group capital calculation under this section, the  
2 insurance holding company system shall file the group capital calculation at  
3 the next annual filing date unless given an extension by the lead state  
4 commissioner based on reasonable grounds shown.

5 (3) The ultimate controlling person of every insurer subject to registration  
6 and scoped into the NAIC liquidity stress test framework shall file the results of a  
7 specific year's liquidity stress test. The filing must be made to the lead state  
8 insurance commissioner of the insurance holding company system as determined  
9 by the procedures within the Financial Analysis Handbook adopted by the NAIC.

10 (A) The NAIC liquidity stress test framework includes scope criteria  
11 applicable to a specific data year. These scope criteria are reviewed at least  
12 annually by the NAIC financial stability task force or its successor. Any  
13 change to the NAIC liquidity stress test framework or to the data year for  
14 which the scope criteria are to be measured is effective on January 1 of the  
15 year following the calendar year when the changes are adopted. Insurers  
16 meeting at least one threshold of the scope criteria are considered scoped into  
17 the NAIC liquidity stress test framework for the specified data year unless the  
18 lead state insurance commissioner, in consultation with the NAIC financial  
19 stability task force or its successor, determines the insurer should not be  
20 scoped into the framework for that data year. Similarly, insurers that do not  
21 trigger at least one threshold of the scope criteria are considered scoped out  
22 of the NAIC liquidity stress test framework for the specified data year, unless  
23 the lead state insurance commissioner, in consultation with the NAIC

1 financial stability task force or its successor, determines the insurer should be  
2 scoped into the framework for that data year. Regulators wish to avoid having  
3 insurers scoped in and out of the NAIC liquidity stress test framework on a  
4 frequent basis. The lead state insurance commissioner, in consultation with  
5 the NAIC financial stability task force or its successor, shall assess this  
6 concern as part of the determination for an insurer.

7 (B) The performance of, and filing of the results from, a specific  
8 year's liquidity stress test must comply with the NAIC liquidity stress test  
9 framework's instructions and reporting templates for that year and any lead  
10 state insurance commissioner determinations, in consultation with the NAIC  
11 financial stability task force or its successor, provided within the framework."

12 (d) Section 326, subsection (a) is amended as follows:

13 (1) In paragraph (1), by adding the following subparagraphs (G) and (H):

14 "(G) (i) If the Commissioner determines that an insurer is in a hazardous  
15 financial condition as set forth in sections 519 and 520 of this title, or a condition  
16 that is grounds for supervision, conservation or a delinquency proceeding as set  
17 forth in chapter 51 of this title, the Commissioner may require the insurer to secure  
18 and maintain either a deposit, held by the Commissioner, or a bond, as determined  
19 by the insurer at the insurer's discretion, for the protection of the insurer for the  
20 duration of the contract or agreement, or the existence of the condition for which  
21 the Commissioner required the deposit or the bond. In determining whether a  
22 deposit or a bond is required, the Commissioner shall consider whether concerns

1 exist regarding the affiliated person's ability to fulfill the contract or agreement if  
2 the insurer were to be put into liquidation.

3 (ii) When the insurer is determined to be in a hazardous financial condition  
4 or a condition that is grounds for supervision, conservation or a delinquency  
5 proceeding, and a deposit or bond is necessary, the Commissioner shall determine  
6 the amount of the deposit or bond, not to exceed the value of the contract or  
7 agreement in any one year, and whether the deposit or bond is required for a single  
8 contract, multiple contracts or a contract with a specific person.

9 (H)(i) All records and data of the insurer held by an affiliate are and remain  
10 the property of the insurer, are subject to control of the insurer, are identifiable, and  
11 are segregated or readily capable of segregation, at no additional cost to the insurer,  
12 from all other persons' records and data. This includes all records and data that are  
13 otherwise the property of the insurer, in whatever form maintained, including, but  
14 not limited to, claims and claim files, policyholder lists, application files, litigation  
15 files, premium records, rate books, underwriting manuals, personnel records,  
16 financial records or similar records within the possession, custody or control of the  
17 affiliate.

18 (ii) At the request of the insurer, the affiliate shall provide that the receiver  
19 can obtain a complete set of all records of any type that pertain to the insurer's  
20 business; obtain access to the operating systems on which the data is maintained;  
21 obtain the software that runs those systems either through assumption of licensing  
22 agreements or otherwise; and restrict the use of the data by the affiliate if it is not  
23 operating the insurer's business. The affiliate shall provide a waiver of any landlord

1           lien or other encumbrance to give the insurer access to all records and data in the  
2           event of the affiliate’s default under a lease or other agreement.

3                   (iii) Premiums or other funds belonging to the insurer that are collected by or  
4           held by an affiliate are the exclusive property of the insurer and are subject to the  
5           control of the insurer. Any right of offset if an insurer is placed into receivership is  
6           subject to chapter 51 of this title.”; and

7           (2) By adding the following paragraph (6):

8                   “(6) (A) Any affiliate that is party to an agreement or contract with a domestic  
9           insurer that is subject to subsection (a)(2)(D) is subject to the jurisdiction of any  
10          supervision, seizure, conservatorship, receivership or delinquency proceeding set  
11          forth in chapter 51 of this title against the insurer, and to the authority of any  
12          supervisor, conservator, rehabilitator, liquidator or receiver for the insurer  
13          appointed pursuant to chapter 51, for the purpose of interpreting, enforcing and  
14          overseeing the affiliate’s obligations under the agreement or contract to perform  
15          services for the insurer that:

16                   (i) Are an integral part of the insurer’s operations, including, but not  
17          limited to management, administrative, accounting, data processing,  
18          marketing, underwriting, claims handling, investment or any other similar  
19          functions; or

20                   (ii) Are essential to the insurer’s ability to fulfill its obligations under  
21          insurance policies.

22                   (B) The Commissioner may require that an agreement or contract under  
23          subsection (a)(2)(D) for the provision of services described in (i) and (ii) of this

1 paragraph, specify that the affiliate consents to the jurisdiction as set forth in this  
2 paragraph.”

3 (e) Section 330 is amended as follows:

4 (1) In subsection (a), by inserting “are recognized by the Virgin Islands as  
5 proprietary and contain trade secrets, and” after “section 329”, and by adding paragraphs  
6 (1) and (2) that read as follows:

7 “(1) For purposes of the information reported and provided to the Division of  
8 Banking, Insurance and Financial Regulation under section 325(l)(2), the  
9 Commissioner shall maintain the confidentiality of the group capital calculation  
10 and group capital ratio produced in the calculation and any group capital  
11 information received from an insurance holding company supervised by the Federal  
12 Reserve Board or any United States group wide supervisor.

13 (2) For purposes of the information reported and provided to the Division of  
14 Banking, Insurance and Financial Regulation pursuant to section 325(l)(3), the  
15 Commissioner shall maintain the confidentiality of the liquidity stress test results  
16 and supporting disclosures and any liquidity stress test information received from  
17 an insurance holding company supervised by the Federal Reserve Board and non-  
18 United States group wide supervisors.”

19 (2) In subsection (c) by striking paragraph (1) in its entirety and inserting the  
20 following new paragraph (1):

21 “(1) The Commissioner may share documents, materials or other  
22 information, including the confidential and privileged documents, materials or  
23 information subject to subsection (a), including proprietary and trade secret

1 documents and materials, with other state, federal and international regulatory  
2 agencies, with the NAIC, with any third-party consultants designated by the  
3 Commissioner, and with local, state, federal, and international law enforcement  
4 authorities, including members of any supervisory college described in section 328,  
5 if the recipient agrees in writing to maintain the confidentiality and privileged status  
6 of the document, material or other information, and has verified in writing the legal  
7 authority to maintain confidentiality.”

8 (3) In subsection (c), paragraph (2), by inserting “(1)” after “section 325(*I*)” and  
9 by striking paragraphs (3) and (4) in their entirety and inserting the following new  
10 paragraphs (3) and (4):

11 “(3) The Commissioner may receive documents, materials or information,  
12 including otherwise confidential and privileged documents, materials or  
13 information, including propriety and trade-secret information from the NAIC and  
14 its affiliates and subsidiaries and from regulatory and law enforcement officials of  
15 other foreign or domestic jurisdictions, and shall maintain as confidential or  
16 privileged any document, material or information received with notice or the  
17 understanding that it is confidential or privileged under the laws of the jurisdiction  
18 that is the source of the document, material or information; and

19 (4) The Commissioner shall enter into written agreements with the NAIC,  
20 and any third-party consultant designated by the Commissioner governing sharing  
21 and use of information provided under this chapter consistent with this subsection  
22 that must:

1 (A) specify procedures and protocols regarding the confidentiality  
2 and security of information shared with the NAIC or a third-party consultant  
3 designated by the Commissioner, including procedures and protocols for  
4 sharing by the NAIC with other state, federal or international regulators. The  
5 agreement must provide that the recipient agrees in writing to maintain the  
6 confidentiality and privileged status of the documents, materials or other  
7 information and has verified in writing the legal authority to maintain such  
8 confidentiality;

9 (B) specify that ownership of information shared with the NAIC, or  
10 a third-party consultant remains with the Commissioner and the NAIC's or a  
11 third-party consultant's, as designated by the Commissioner, use of the  
12 information is subject to the direction of the Commissioner;

13 (C) excluding documents, material or information reported under  
14 section 325(l)(3), prohibit the NAIC or third-party consultant from storing the  
15 information shared in a permanent database after the underlying analysis is  
16 completed;

17 (D) require prompt notice to be given to an insurer whose confidential  
18 information in the possession of the NAIC or a third-party consultant is  
19 subject to a request or subpoena to the NAIC or a third-party consultant for  
20 disclosure or production;

21 (E) require the NAIC or a third-party consultant to consent to  
22 intervention by an insurer in any judicial or administrative action in which the  
23 NAIC or a third-party consultant may be required to disclose confidential

1 information about the insurer shared with the NAIC or a third-party  
2 consultant; and

3 (F) for documents, material or information reporting under section  
4 325(l)(3), in the case of an agreement involving a third-party consultant,  
5 provide for notification of the identity of the consultant to the applicable  
6 insurers.”

7 (4) In subsection (f) by inserting “or a third-party consultant designated by the  
8 Commissioner” after “NAIC”.

9 (5) By adding the following subsection (g):

10 “(g) The group capital calculation and resulting group capital ratio required  
11 under section 325(l)(2) and the liquidity stress test along with its results and  
12 supporting disclosures required under section 325(l)(3) are regulatory tools for  
13 assessing group risks and capital adequacy and group liquidity risks, respectively,  
14 and are not intended to rank insurers or insurance holding company systems  
15 generally. Therefore, except as otherwise provided under this chapter, the making,  
16 publishing, disseminating, circulating or placing before the public, or causing  
17 directly or indirectly to be made, published, disseminated, circulated or placed  
18 before the public in a newspaper, magazine or other publication, or in the form of a  
19 notice, circular, pamphlet, letter or poster, or over any radio or television station or  
20 any electronic means of communication available to the public, or in any other way  
21 as an advertisement, announcement or statement containing a representation or  
22 statement with regard to the group capital calculation, group capital ratio, the  
23 liquidity stress test results, or supporting disclosures for the liquidity stress test of

1 any insurer or any insurer group, or of any component derived in the calculation by  
2 any insurer, broker, or other person engaged in any manner in the insurance business  
3 is misleading and is therefore prohibited; provided, however, that if any materially  
4 false statement with respect to the group capital calculation, resulting group capital  
5 ratio, an inappropriate comparison of any amount to an insurer's or insurance  
6 group's group capital calculation or resulting group capital ratio, liquidity stress test  
7 result, supporting disclosures for the liquidity stress test, or an inappropriate  
8 comparison of any amount to an insurer's or insurance group's liquidity stress test  
9 result or supporting disclosures is published in any written publication and the  
10 insurer is able to demonstrate to the Commissioner with substantial proof the falsity  
11 of the statement or the inappropriateness, as the case may be, then the insurer may  
12 publish announcements in a written publication if the sole purpose of the  
13 announcement is to rebut the materially false statement."

#### 14 **BILL SUMMARY**

15 This bill amends title 22 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 14 to implement revisions to the  
16 NAIC's Insurance Holding Company System Regulatory Act Model Law, to ensure the Virgin  
17 Islands continued compliance with NAIC accreditation standards and to strengthen insurance  
18 laws to protect policyholders in the Virgin Islands.

19 **BR25-0822/September 3, 2025/SLR**

20 **G36-030**

COMMITTEE ON BUDGET, APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCE

01/08/2026-REPORTED OUT TO THE FLOOR

12/15/2025-REPORTED OUT TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JUDICIARY

**BILL NO. 36-0209**

**Thirty-Sixth Legislature of the Virgin Islands**

**November 17, 2025**

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

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**PROPOSED BY:** Senator Hubert L. Frederick  
Sponsor: Avery L. Lewis  
Co-sponsor: Ray Fonseca

---

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

2 **SECTION 1.** Title 23 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 10, subchapter I is amended by  
3 adding the following new section:

4 **“§1018. Marine advisories; civil penalties.**

5 (a) For purposes of this section, “marine advisory” means an official advisory,  
6 warning, small craft advisories, recreational marine use advisories, coastal hazard warnings, or  
7 similar public safety notices issued by the following agencies:

8 (1) the United States Coast Guard;

9 (2) the National Weather Service;

10 (3) the Virgin Islands Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR);

11 (4) the Virgin Islands Police Department (VIPD);

1           (5) the Virgin Islands Territorial Emergency Management Agency (VITEMA);  
2           and

3           (6) the Virgin Islands Fire and Emergency Medical Services (VIFEMS).

4           (b) Any person, whether operating a vessel, engaging in recreational marine activity,  
5 or engaging in shoreline or coastal activity, who knowingly or negligently disregards a marine  
6 advisory, as defined in subsection (a), and whose actions result in the deployment of emergency  
7 response resources, shall be assessed a civil penalty of \$500 per incident. Each incident  
8 requiring emergency response constitutes a separate violation.

9           (c) Citations for violations under this section may be issued by the Commissioner of  
10 Police, the Commissioner of DPNR, the Director of VITEMA, the Director of VIFEMS, or  
11 their authorized designees.

12           (d) Any individual receiving a citation under this section may contest it by filing an  
13 appeal with the issuing agency within 20 calendar days of issuance. The agency shall designate  
14 a hearing officer to review the appeal and issue a written determination within 30 calendar days.  
15 Payment of the penalty is stayed until the final resolution of the appeal. After the final resolution  
16 of an appeal, all penalties collected must be remitted by the issuing agency to the Department  
17 of Finance for deposit into the Territorial Marine Safety Fund.

18           (e) There is established in the Treasury of the Virgin Islands a special fund designated  
19 the "Territorial Marine Safety Fund," which is separate and distinct and administered by the  
20 Commissioner of Finance. The Fund consists of all monies collected from civil penalties  
21 imposed under this section.

22           (f) Monies in the Fund is disbursed at the request of the responding agency as outlined  
23 in subsection (a) of this section and must be used solely for:



01/08/2026-REPORTED OUT TO THE FLOOR

12/15/2025-REPORTED OUT TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JUDICIARY

**BILL NO. 36-0210**

**Thirty-Sixth Legislature of the Virgin Islands**

**November 17, 2025**

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

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**PROPOSED BY:** Senator Kurt A. Vialet  
Sponsors: Novelle E. Francis, Jr. and Avery L. Lewis

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

2       **SECTION 1.** Notwithstanding the use restrictions in title 22 Virgin Islands Code,  
3 section 237(a)(3)(A), and title 33 Virgin Islands Code, section 3061(b), the sum of \$4,000,000  
4 is appropriated in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, from the Virgin Islands Insurance  
5 Guaranty Fund to the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority for the repair, replacement,  
6 and operation of streetlights as follows:

- 7           (1) \$1,800,000 for St. Croix;  
8           (2) \$1,200,000 for St. Thomas/St. John; and  
9           (3) \$1,000,000 for payment of outstanding bills.

10       **SECTION 2.** No later than 45 days after enactment, the Virgin Islands Water and Power  
11 Authority shall submit a streetlighting plan to the Legislature of the Virgin Islands. Funds  
12 appropriated under section 1 shall be made available only after submission of the plan.



01/08/2026-REPORTED OUT TO THE FLOOR

12/15/2025-REPORTED OUT TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JUDICIARY

**BILL NO. 36-0217**

**Thirty-Sixth Legislature of the Virgin Islands**

**December 15, 2025**

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

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**PROPOSED BY:** Senator Milton E. Potter and Avery L. Lewis,  
by Request of the Governor  
Co-sponsor: Hubert L. Frederick

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1       **WHEREAS**, on December 17, 1997, a Deed of Gift was recorded and entered into the  
2 Recorder’s Book for the district of St. Croix, Virgin Islands, wherein Gwyneth Francis Civil  
3 conveyed to the Government of the Virgin Islands Parcel No. 20-A Hospital Street, consisting  
4 of 2,000 U.S. square feet, more or less, as more fully described on Measured Brief 49329, Folio  
5 No. 472, dated July 24, 1997, (Parcel ID No. 2-04904-1102-00) Christiansted St. Croix, Virgin  
6 Islands (“Parcel No. 20-A Hospital Street”);

7       **WHEREAS**, on by letter dated November 12, 2024, Anthony D. Thomas, ATJ  
8 Management Solution, on behalf of Z Property VI LLC (“Z Property VI”) made an offer to the  
9 Government of the Virgin Islands, through the Virgin Islands Department of Property and  
10 Procurement, to purchase Parcel No. 20-A Hospital Street for \$260,000 from the Government  
11 of the Virgin Islands;

1           **WHEREAS**, on by letter dated November 20, 2025, Lisa M. Alejandro, Commissioner,  
2 Virgin Islands Department of Property and Procurement, acting on behalf of the Government  
3 of the Virgin Islands, accepted Z Property VI's offer and forward a Contract of Sale to Z  
4 Property VI;

5           **WHEREAS**, on November 25, 2025, Peter Zielke, Sole Member, Z Property executed  
6 the Contract for the Purchase and Sale of Real Property by and between the Government of the  
7 Virgin Islands and Z Property VI for Parcel No. 20-A Hospital Street;

8           **WHEREAS**, on December 5, 2025, the Governor of the Virgin Islands executed the  
9 Contract for the Purchase and Sale of Real Property by and between the Government of the  
10 Virgin Islands and Z Property VI for Parcel No. 20-A Hospital Steet; and

11           **WHEREAS**, pursuant to title 31 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 21, section 205, subsection  
12 (c), the Legislature of the Virgin Islands must approve the Governor's sale of real property of  
13 the Government of the Virgin Islands; Now, Therefore,

14 ***Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:***

15           **SECTION 1.** (a) Pursuant to title 31 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 21, section 205,  
16 subsection (c), the Legislature of the Virgin Islands approves the Contract for the Purchase and  
17 Sale of Real Property for Parcel No. 20-A Hospital Street, consisting of 2,000 U.S. square feet,  
18 more or less, as more fully described on Measured Brief 49329, Folio No. 472, dated July 24,  
19 1997, (Parcel ID No. 2-04904-1102-00), Christiansted, St. Croix, Virgin Islands for the sum of  
20 \$260,000, by and between the Z Property VI LLC and the Government of the Virgin Islands,  
21 executed by the parties on November 25, 2025, and December 5, 2025, respectively.

22           (b) Not later than 30 days after the enactment of this act, the Government of the Virgin  
23 Islands shall convey to Z Property VI LLC, by Quitclaim Deed, Parcel No. 20-A Hospital  
24 Street, consisting of 2,000 U.S. square feet, more or less, as more fully described on Measured

1 Brief 49329, Folio No. 472, dated July 24, 1997, (Parcel ID No. 2-04904-1102-00),  
2 Christiansted, St. Croix, Virgin Islands.

3 **BILL SUMMARY**

4 The bill approves the Governor of the Virgin Islands approval of the sale of Parcel No.  
5 20-A Hospital Street, Christiansted St. Croix, Virgin Islands, to Z Property VI LLC and  
6 provides that the property must be conveyed to Z Property VI LLC by Quitclaim Deed not later  
7 than 30 days after the Legislature's approval of the sale.

8 **BR25-0942/December 15, 2025/SLR**  
9 **G36-044**