

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

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,
Ray Fonseca and Clifford A. Joseph, Sr.

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](#)