**COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HOSPITALS AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**10/22/2026-REPORTED OUT TO THE FLOOR**
**09/29/2026-AMENDED AND REPORTED OUT TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JUDICIARY**

# BILL NO. 36-0280

## Thirty-Sixth Legislature of the Virgin Islands

**May 8, 2026**

An act amending title 19 Virgin Islands Code, part IV, chapter 37, subchapter II, section 831, subsection (a), paragraph (2), by giving a parent of a newborn, who is born in a government hospital, the option to receive the child's birth certificate by mail

**PROPOSED BY:** Senator Hubert L. Frederick

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

**SECTION 1.** Title 19 Virgin Islands Code, part IV, chapter 37, subchapter II, is amended as follows:

(a) in section 831:

(1) in subsection (a):

(A) strike paragraph (1) and insert a new paragraph (1):

"(1)(A) Within five days after a birth that occurs under paragraph (2), a certificate of live birth which complies with the U.S. Standard Certificate of Live Birth; the birth certificate application; and an acknowledgment of paternity completed under 16 V.I.C. § 292, if any; shall be submitted to the local registrar of the district in which the birth occurred.

(B) Within five days after a birth that occurs under paragraph (3), a certificate of live birth which complies with the U.S. Standard Certificate of Live Birth shall be submitted to the local registrar of the district in which the birth occurred."

(B) in paragraph (2):

(i) in the first sentence, insert ", which includes instructions for obtaining the birth certificate from the local registrar," after "birth certificate application"; and

(ii) strike all the language after the first sentence and insert:

"The discharge planner, or his designee, shall submit the certificate of live birth, the birth certificate application, and the acknowledgment of paternity in accordance with paragraph (1)(A). The birth certificate application shall include an option for the parent to receive the birth certificate by mail upon payment of an administrative fee. Upon determination that the application is complete, the local registrar shall, if requested by the parent, mail the birth certificate to the parent not later than five days after the certificate of live birth and the birth certificate application are submitted."

(C) in paragraph (3), strike "file in accordance herewith the certificate herein required" and insert "submit the certificate of live birth in accordance with paragraph (1)(B)";

(D) in paragraph (4), in the second sentence:

(i) strike the first occurrence of "as required in subsection (b) of this section" and insert "that is compliant with the U.S. Standard Certificate of Live Birth"; and

(ii) strike the second occurrence of "as required in subsection (b) of this section".

(2) strike subsection (b) and re-designate subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (b) and (c), respectively.

(b) in section 832:

(1) strike "a notarized affidavit of paternity," and insert "an acknowledgment of paternity"; and

(2) designate the existing language as subsection (a) and add subsection (b):

"(b) If paternity is acknowledged, the surname chosen by the mother shall be entered on the birth certificate. If paternity is not acknowledged or established, the surname of the mother shall be entered on the child's birth certificate."

**BILL SUMMARY**

This bill amends title 19 Virgin Islands Code, part IV, chapter 37, subchapter II, section 831, subsection (a), paragraph (2), by giving a parent of a newborn, who is born in a government hospital, the option to receive the child's birth certificate by mail upon payment of a $10.00 administrative and requiring the local registrar to mail the birth certificate to the parent not later than five days after the certificate of live birth is filed.

**BR25-0931/April 10, 2026/GC**

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