

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS,  
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

05/07/2026-HELD IN COMMITTEE

01/23/2026-HELD IN COMMITTEE

**BILL NO. 36-0187**

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

**September 17, 2025**

An act amending title 18 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 23, section 622 requiring the Board of Elections to count by hand votes deposited in a ballot box

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**PROPOSED BY:** Senator Franklin D. Johnson

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

2       **SECTION 1.** Title 18 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 23, section 622 is amended by  
3       designating the existing paragraph as subsection (a) and inserting the following subsections (b),  
4       (c), and (d):

5       “(b) After the paper ballots are removed from the ballot box, the votes shall be counted  
6       by hand.

7       (c) The election officers shall count the ballots in a manner that allows watchers to see  
8       the ballots when opened and read. The election officer handling the ballot after it has been taken

1 from the ballot box may not have a marking device in hand or remove a ballot from the  
2 immediate vicinity of the polls.

3 (d) Ballots may not be counted before 8:00 p.m. on the day of the election.”

4 **BILL SUMMARY**

5 This bill amends title 18 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 23, section 622 requiring the Board  
6 of Elections to count by hand votes deposited in a ballot box.

7 **BR25-0135/September 11, 2025/CBM**