

BILL NO. 36-0104

Thirty-Sixth Legislature of the Virgin Islands

June 24, 2025

An act amending title 17 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 11 by adding section 137 to allow a school district to accept volunteer school chaplains to provide support, services, and programs for students as assigned by the Board of Education

PROPOSED BY: Senator Carla J. Joseph

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:

SECTION 1. Title 17 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 11 is amended by adding the following section 137:

“§137. School Chaplains

(a) A school district may accept volunteer school chaplains to provide support, services, and programs for students as assigned by the Board of Education.

(b) A student’s participation in chaplain-related programs or activities is voluntary and no student may be coerced or required to participate in chaplain-related programs or activities.

(c) A school district may not accept a chaplain who has been convicted of or placed in a deferred prosecution program for an offense for which a defendant is required to register as a sex offender under title 14 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 86.”

BILL SUMMARY

This bill amends title 17 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 11 by adding section 137 to allow a school district to accept volunteer chaplains to provide support, services, and programs for

1 students as assigned by the Board of Education; require that a student's participation in
2 chaplain-related programs or activities be voluntary; and provide that a school district not
3 accept a chaplain who has been convicted of or placed in a deferred prosecution program for
4 an offense that would require registration as a sex offender.

5 **BR25-0378/March 25, 2025/GC**