

COMMITTEE ON BUDGET, APPROPRIATIONS AND
FINANCE

BILL NO. 35-0176

Thirty-Fifth Legislature of the Virgin Islands

October 18, 2023

An Act appropriating \$302,000 to establish the Master's Degree in Industrial Hygiene Program at the University of the Virgin Islands on both campuses

PROPOSED BY: Senator Diane T. Capehart

WHEREAS, the University of the Virgin Islands does not have an Industrial Hygiene degree program; and

WHEREAS, currently refineries, distilleries, gas suppliers and temporary landfills exist on both St. Croix and St. Thomas; and

WHEREAS, the College of Science and Mathematics provides degree programs in Biology, Computer Science, Marine Biology, Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics, and Process Technology; and

WHEREAS, Industrial Hygiene programs are common programs at universities in communities that have refineries or face issues creating sanitary landfills that comply with environmental standards; and

WHEREAS, the American Industrial Hygiene Association promotes the goal of an industrial hygiene program to keep workers and the surrounding community healthy and safe; and

WHEREAS, there is growing evidence that suggests that employees who have a higher level of education in this field facilitate a decrease in adverse outcomes in industrial communities; Now, Therefore,

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:

SECTION 1. The sum of \$302,000 is appropriated from the General Fund of the Government of the Virgin Islands in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, to the University of the Virgin Islands to fund the Master's Degree in Industrial Hygiene Program on both campuses.

SECTION 2. (a) The funds appropriated in section 1 of this Act remain available until expended. These funds must be used solely for the to implement the Master's Degree in Industrial Hygiene Program on the island of St. Croix.

(b) Regardless of the amount, all expenditures from the funds must be authorized by the majority of members of the University of the Virgin Islands Board of Trustees or a majority of the members present at a meeting with a quorum established.

SECTION 3. The funds appropriated in Section 1 of this Act must be expended for the specific purposes and in the amounts established in paragraphs (1) through (5) of this section.

(1)	Recruitment of faculty	\$230,000
(2)	Contracting expert for faculty & program development	\$ 42,000
(3)	Application for approval to offer Industrial Hygiene Master's Degree program on St. Croix	\$ 5,000
(4)	Upgrade of library resources	\$ 25,000

BILL SUMMARY

This bill appropriates \$302,000 from the General fund to the University of the Virgin Islands to fund the Master's Degree in Industrial Hygiene Program on both campuses.

BR23-0554/September 22, 2023/Revised/NS