

BILL NO. 35-0001

Thirty-Fifth Legislature of the Virgin Islands

January 9, 2023

A Resolution organizing and establishing the Majority Caucus, electing the officers, and appointing the chairpersons, vice-chairpersons, and members of the standing committees of the Thirty-Fifth Legislature of the Virgin Islands

PROPOSED BY: Senators Novelle. E. Francis, Jr., Marvin A. Blyden, Carla J. Joseph, Angel L. Bolques, Jr., Diane T. Capehart, Ray Fonseca
Donna A. Frett-Gregory, Kenneth L. Gittens, Javan E. James, Sr.,
Marise C. James, and Milton E. Potter

WHEREAS, section 7 (a) of the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands requires regular sessions of the Legislature to be held annually commencing on the second Monday in January;

WHEREAS, section 6 (g) of the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands grants the Legislature of the Virgin Islands the authority to exercise all the attributes, inherent in legislative assemblies;

WHEREAS, the election of its officers, establishment of committees, appointment of members to the committees, and the general organization of the body are inherent powers of the Legislature;

WHEREAS, it has been a long-standing rule and practice of the Legislature for the members of the Legislature after the swearing in ceremony on the second Monday in January of odd-numbered years, to meet at the Capitol Building in Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas and

convene in regular session to organize the Legislature;

WHEREAS, it has been a long-standing practice, as authorized by the Rules of the Legislature, that the officers, committee chairpersons, and members on committees may be elected by adoption of a resolution naming the officers, committees, chairs, vice-chairs and members and organizing the Legislature; and

WHEREAS, consistent with the authority granted by the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands, the purpose of this resolution is to organize the Thirty-Fifth Legislature of the Virgin Islands; Now, Therefore,

Be it Resolved by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands THAT:

SECTION 1. (a) The Thirty-Fifth Legislature is organized as provided in sections 2 through 4.

SECTION 2. The Majority Caucus is established and is composed of:

- (1) Senator Marvin A. Blyden;
- (2) Senator Angel L. Bolques, Jr.;
- (3) Senator Diane T. Capehart;
- (4) Senator Ray Fonseca;
- (5) Senator Novelle E. Francis, Jr.;
- (6) Senator Donna A. Frett-Gregory;
- (7) Senator Kenneth L. Gittens;
- (8) Senator Javan E. James, Sr.;
- (9) Senator Marise C. James;
- (10) Senator Carla J. Joseph; and
- (11) Senator Milton E. Potter.

SECTION 3. The following members are elected to the offices of the Thirty-Fifth

1 Legislature as provided in this section.

2 (a) Senator Novelle E. Francis, Jr. is elected President;

3 (b) Senator Marvin A. Blyden is elected Vice-President;

4 (c) Senator Carla J. Joseph is elected Secretary;

5 (d) Senator Kenneth L. Gittens is elected Majority Leader;

6 (e) Senator Marise C. James is elected Secretary for Intergovernmental Territorial
7 Affairs;

8 (f) Senator Donna A. Frett-Gregory is elected Liaison to the United States Congress;

9 (g) Senator Carla J. Joseph is elected Liaison to the United States Department of
10 Interior & Office of Insular Affairs; and

11 (h) Senator Kenneth L. Gittens is elected Liaison to the White House.

12 **SECTION 4.** The following standing committees of the Thirty-Fifth Legislature are
13 established, and the chairs, vice-chairs, and members of the committees are appointed as
14 provided in this section.

15 **(a) COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JUDICIARY**

16 Chair: Senator Diane T. Capehart

17 Vice-Chair: Senator Milton E. Potter

18 Members: Senator Angel L. Bolques, Jr.

19 Senator Kenneth L. Gittens

20 Senator Marise C. James

21 Senator Franklin D. Johnson

22 Senator Carla J. Joseph

23 **(b) COMMITTEE ON BUDGET, APPROPRIATIONS, AND FINANCE**

24 Chair: Senator Donna A. Frett-Gregory

25 Vice-Chair: Senator Novelle E. Francis, Jr.

26 Members: Senator Marvin A. Blyden

1 Senator Samuel Carrión

2 Senator Dwayne M. DeGraff

3 Senator Ray Fonseca

4 Senator Javan E. James, Sr.

5 **(c) COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HOSPITALS, AND HUMAN SERVICES**

6 Chair: Senator Ray Fonseca

7 Vice-Chair: Senator Kenneth L. Gittens

8 Members: Senator Marvin A. Blyden

9 Senator Diane T. Capehart

10 Senator Samuel Carrión

11 Senator Novelle E. Francis, Jr.

12 Senator Donna A. Frett-Gregory

13 Senator Marise C. James

14 Senator Milton E. Potter

15 **(d) COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

16 Chair: Senator Marise C. James

17 Vice-Chair: Senator Donna A. Frett-Gregory

18 Members: Senator Diane T. Capehart

19 Senator Dwayne M. DeGraff

20 Senator Javan E. James, Sr.

21 Senator Franklin D. Johnson

22 Senator Carla J. Joseph

23 **(e) COMMITTEE ON DISASTER RECOVERY, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND**
24 **PLANNING**

25 Chair: Senator Milton E. Potter

26 Vice-Chair: Senator Diane T. Capehart

27 Members: Senator Alma Francis Heyliger

1 Senator Kenneth L. Gittens

2 Senator Marise C. James

3 Senator Franklin D. Johnson

4 Senator Carla J. Joseph

5 **(f) COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND AGRICULTURE**

6 Chair: Senator Javan E. James, Sr.

7 Vice-Chair: Senator Angel L. Bolques, Jr.

8 Members: Senator Marvin A. Blyden

9 Senator Diane T. Capehart

10 Senator Dwayne M. DeGraff

11 Senator Alma Francis Heyliger

12 Senator Donna A. Frett-Gregory

13 **(f) COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY, JUSTICE, AND**
14 **PUBLIC SAFETY**

15 Chair: Senator Kenneth L. Gittens

16 Vice-Chair: Senator Ray Fonseca

17 Members: Senator Angel L. Bolques, Jr.

18 Senator Dwayne M. DeGraff

19 Senator Alma Francis Heyliger

20 Senator Javan E. James, Sr.

21 Senator Franklin D. Johnson

22 **(h) COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, VETERANS AFFAIRS,**
23 **AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

24 Chair: Senator Carla J. Joseph

25 Vice-Chair: Senator Javan E. James, Sr.

26 Members: Senator Samuel Carrión

27 Senator Ray Fonseca

28 Senator Alma Francis Heyliger

29 Senator Kenneth L. Gittens

1 Senator Milton E. Potter

2 (i) **COMMITTEE ON HOUSING, TRANSPORTATION, AND**
3 **TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

4 Chair: Senator Marvin A. Blyden

5 Vice-Chair: Senator Marise C. James

6 Members: Senator Angel L. Bolques, Jr.

7 Senator Samuel Carrión

8 Senator Dwayne M. DeGraff

9 Senator Ray Fonseca

10 Senator Carla J. Joseph

11 (j) **COMMITTEE ON CULTURE, SPORTS, PARKS, AND YOUTH**

12 Chair: Senator Angel L. Bolques, Jr.

13 Vice-Chair: Senator Marvin A. Blyden

14 Members: Senator Samuel Carrión

15 Senator Alma Francis Heyliger

16 Senator Novelle E. Francis, Jr.

17 Senator. Franklin D. Johnson

18 Senator Milton E. Potter

19 (k) **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

20 Chair: Senator Novelle E. Francis, Jr.

21 Vice-Chair: Senator Marvin A. Blyden

22 Members: Senator Carla J. Joseph

23 Senator Angel L. Bolques, Jr.

24 Senator Diane T. Capehart

25 Senator Samuel Carrión

26 Senator Dwayne M. DeGraff

27 Senator Ray Fonseca

28 Senator Alma Francis Heyliger

29 Senator Donna A. Frett-Gregory

30 Senator Kenneth L. Gittens

1 Senator Javan E. James, Sr.

2 Senator Marise C. James

3 Senator Franklin D. Johnson

4 Senator Milton E. Potter

5 **BILL SUMMARY**

6 This resolution provides in section 1 that the Legislature is organized as provided in
7 sections 2 through 4.

8 Section 2 establishes the Majority Caucus.

9 Section 3 provides for the election of the officers of the 35th Legislature.

10 Section 4 establishes the standing committees of the 35th Legislature, their chairs, vice-
11 chairs and membership.

12 **BR23-0001/ January 8, 2023/YLT**