



| Committee on Rules and Judiciary

Legislature USVI

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0:00:00 La La La La La La La La La La Thank you.

0:01:00 ¶¶ Thank you. Thank you. ¶¶ Oh, yeah, man.

0:03:30 Thank you. Thank you. so Thank you. so Thank you. so

0:07:00 so Oh, my God. Oh, my God. Oh, my God. Thank you. Oh, my God. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Oh Thank you. Thank you.

0:14:00 Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. The meeting's scheduled for Thursday, September 26th, 2024, for the committee on rules and judiciary has been called to order good afternoon colleagues

0:17:08 of the rules and judiciary committee good afternoon to the people of the virgin islands to live listening and viewing audience to the legislative staff who's working this meeting today The goal today is to deliver another balanced budget. I just want to offer special thanks to the Committee on Budget and Appropriations for their hard work on the fiscal year 2025 executive budget. I just want to inform the listening and viewing audience.

0:17:48 The Committee on Rules and Judiciary is the clearinghouse of the bills. I just wanna make sure people understand that. So, Madam Clerk, can you proceed with the roll call? Senator Angel L. Volquez, Jr. Present. Senator Volquez, present. Senator Diane T. Capehart. Present. Senator Capehart, present.

0:18:22 Senators Kenneth L. Gittins. Senator Gittins, present. Senator Maurice C. James. Here. Senator James, present. Senator Franklin D. Johnson. Here. Senator Johnson, present. Senator Carla J. Joseph. Present. Senator Joseph, present. Senator Milton E. Potter. Here. Senator Potter, present. Madam Chair, you have seven present. Thank you, Madam Clerk. At this time, I'll just state the purpose of this meeting.

- 0:18:58 We have 35 budget bills. At this time, Madam Clerk, please read the summarized agenda into the record. The Committee on Rules and Judiciary has scheduled a meeting for Thursday, September 26, 2024 in the Earl B. Atlee, St. Thomas, in the Earl B. Atlee Legislative Hall, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands to consider the following bills.
- 0:19:29 Block 1, Bill number 35-0087 and Act Amending Title 33, Virgin Islands Code, Chapter 111, add section 3038A to establish in a Treasury of the Virgin Islands a special fund designated as the Veterans Mainland Travel Revolving Fund and appropriating \$250,000 for reimbursement for veterans airfare to travel outside of the VA Caribbean Healthcare Network for necessary medical care proposed by Senator DeWayne M. DeGraff and Senator Donna A. Fred Gregory.
- 0:20:15 Bill number 35-0272 and act amending Title 20 Virgin Islands Code Part 2 Chapter 38 Section 425A relating to an increase in the motor vehicle rental surcharge and Title 33 Virgin islands code chapter 111 section 3002 relating to increased funding in a district public road fund proposed by senator angel l boquez jr bill number 35-0341 an act provided an appropriation for the operating expenses of the virgin islands board of education from the general fund of the treasury of the government of the virgin islands during the fiscal year october 1 2024 through september 30th 2025 proposed by senator novelle e francis jr and senator donna a fred gregory bill number three five dash zero three four two and act providing an appropriation for the operating expenses of the virgin islands office of the inspector general from the general fund of the Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands for the fiscal year October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025, proposed by Senator Novel E. Francis Jr. and Senator Donna A. Fred Gregory.
- 0:21:47 Bill number 35-0343, an act providing an appropriation for the operating expenses of the Virgin Islands Career and Technical Education Board from the General Fund of of the Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands during the fiscal year October 1, 2024, through September 30th, 2025. Proposed by Senator Novell E. Francis Jr. and Senator Donna A. Fred Gregory. Bill number 35-0344, an act provided an appropriation for the operating expenses of the Virgin Islands Hospital and Health Facilities Corporation the general fund of the treasury of the government of the virgin islands for the fiscal year october 1 2024 through september 30th 2025 proposed by senator novelle e francis jr and senator donna a fred gregory block two bill number three five dash zero three four five and act providing an appropriation for salaries and expenses of the virgin islands board of elections and the Office of the Supervisor of Elections for the fiscal year October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025 proposed by Senator Novell E. Francis Jr. and Senator Donna A. Fred Gregory.
- 0:23:14 Bill number 35-0346, an act provided an appropriation for the operation of the judicial branch of the Government of the Virgin Islands, the Judicial Council, and the Office of the Territorial public defender during the fiscal year october 1 2024 through september 30th 2025 proposed by senator novelle e francis jr and senator donna a fred gregory bill number 35.0347 and act provided an appropriation for the operating expenses of the public employees relations board and the virgin islands labor management committee for the fiscal year october 1 2024 through september 30th 2025 proposed by senator novelle e francis jr and senator donna a fred gregory bill number three five dash zero three four eight and act provided an appropriation from the saint croix capital improvement fund of the government of the virgin islands to the virgin islands Department of Public Works for road repair and maintenance projects in the fiscal year ending September 30th, 2025, proposed by Senators Nouvelle E. Francis Jr., Donna A. Fred Gregory, Javon E. James Sr., and Samuel Carrion. Bill number 35-0349, an act providing an appropriation from the St. Thomas Capital Improvement Fund of the Government of the Virgin Islands to the Virgin Islands Department of Public Works for road repair and maintenance projects in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025. Proposed by Senators Novell E. Francis Jr., Donna A. Fred Gregory, Angel L. Borges Jr., and Marvin Blyden. Bill number
- 0:25:11 035-0350, an act provided an appropriation from the St. John Capital Improvement Fund of the Government of the Virgin Islands to the Virgin Islands Department of Public Works for road repair and maintenance projects in the fiscal year ending September 30th, 2025. Proposed by Senators Novel E. Francis Jr., Donna A. Fred Gregory, Angel L. Borges Jr., and Marvin Blighton.
- 0:25:48 Block 3, Bill No. 35-0351, an act provided an appropriation for the operating expenses of the Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority from the General Fund of the Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands during the fiscal year October 1, 2024 through September 30th 2025 proposed by senator novelle e francis jr and senator donna a fred gregory bill number 35-0352 an act provided an appropriation for the operating expenses of the public services commission for the fiscal year october 1 2024 through september 30th 2025 proposed by senator novelle e francis jr and senator donna a fred gregory bill number 35-0353 an act provided an appropriation for the salaries and expenses of the university of the virgin islands for the fiscal year october 1 2024 through september 30th 2025 proposed by senator novelle e francis jr and Senator Donna A. Fred Gregory. Bill number 34-0354, an act provided an appropriation from the Anti-Litter and Beautification Fund to the Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority and the Virgin Islands Department of Public Works for operating expenses during the fiscal year October 1, 2024 through september 30th 2025 proposed by senator novelle e francis jr and senator donna a fred gregory bill number 35-0355 and act provided an

appropriation from the caribbean basin initiative fund as a contribution to the general fund of the treasury of the virgin islands for the fiscal year october 1 2024 through september 30th 2025 proposed by senator novelle e francis jr and senator donna a fred gregory bill number three five dash zero three five six

0:28:01 and act providing an appropriation from the business and commercial properties revolving fund to the virgin islands department of property and procurement for operating expenses for the fiscal year october 1 2024 through september 30th 2025 proposed by senator novelle e francis jr and senator donna a fred gregory block four bill number three five dash zero three five seven an act provided an appropriation from the virgin islands lottery as a contribution to the general fund of the treasury of the government of the virgin islands for the fiscal year october 1 2024 through september 30th 2025 proposed by senator novelle e francis jr and senator donna a fred gregory bill number 35-0358 and act providing for a lump sum appropriation from the health revolving fund to the virgin islands department of health and a contribution to the general fund of the treasury of the government of the virgin islands for fiscal year october 1 2024 through september 30th 2025 proposed by senator novel e francis jr and senator donna a Fred Gregory. Bill number 35-0360, an act providing an appropriation to the Virgin Islands Taxicab Commission for the fiscal year October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025, proposed by Senator Novell E. Francis Jr. and Senator Donna A. Fred Gregory. Bill number 35-0361, an act providing

0:29:54 and appropriation from the transportation trust fund as a contribution to the general fund of the treasury of the virgin islands and to provide operating expenses for the vi bureau of motor vehicles and a department of public works for the fiscal year october 1 2024 through september 30th 2025 proposed by senator novelle e francis jr and senator donna a fred gregory bill number three five dash zero three six two an act provided an appropriation from the virgin islands insurance guarantee fund as a contribution to the general fund of the treasury of the government of the virgin islands for the fiscal year october 1 2024 through september 30th 2025 proposed by senator novel e francis jr and senator donna a fred gregory bill number 35-0363 an act provided an appropriation for the legislature of the virgin islands for the fiscal year october 1 2024 through September 30th, 2025, proposed by Senator Novell E. Francis Jr. and Senator Donna A. Fred Gregory. Block 5, Bill No. 35-0364, an act provided an appropriation from the Tourism Advertising Revolving Fund to the Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority, Office of the Governor, the Virgin Islands Department of Education, the Virgin Islands Police Department, the Virgin islands department of public works the virgin islands department of agriculture the virgin islands department of sports parks and recreation and the virgin islands department of tourism during the fiscal year october 1 2024 through september 30th 2025 proposed by senator novel e francis jr and senator donna a fred gregory bill number 35-0365 and act providing an

0:32:07 appropriation for the operating expenses of the waste management authority from the sewer waste water fund of the government of the virgin islands for the fiscal year october 1 2024 through september 30th 2025 proposed by senator novelle e francis jr and senator donna a fred Gregory. Bill number 35-0366, an act provided an appropriation from the General Fund of the Treasury of the Virgin Islands to the District Public Road Fund for the fiscal year October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025, proposed by Senator Novell E. Francis Jr. and Senator Donna A. Fred Gregory. Bill number 35-373 and act amending act number 8701 by removing the use restrictions on the line of credit by directing the commissioner of the Virgin Islands Department of Finance, the director of the Virgin Islands Bureau of Internal Revenue, and the Virgin Islands Tax Assessor to collect outstanding taxes directing the respective agencies to request the Attorney General of the Virgin Islands to prosecute delinquent taxpayers and other related matters. Proposed by Senator Novell E. Francis Jr., Donna A. Fred Gregory, and Alma Francis Heiliger. Bill number 35-0375, an act amending title 11 virgin islands code by adding chapter 3 establishing a wire transfer fee an amount of three percent of the total amount of a money transfer and establishing the money laundering and electronic transaction enforcement fund proposed by senator marvin a blyton and senator Donna A. Fred Gregory. Block 6, Bill No. 35-0376, an act providing an appropriation from the

0:34:15 General Fund of the Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands for the operation of the Government of the Virgin Islands during the fiscal year October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025, proposed by Senator Novell E. Francis Jr. and Senator Donna A. Fred Gregory. Bill number 35-0377, an act providing for a lump sum appropriation from the School Construction Maintenance and Capital Fund to the Bureau of School Construction and Maintenance for repair renovation and maintenance of public schools and facilities for fiscal year October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025. Proposed by Senator Novell E. Francis Jr. and Senator Donna A. Fred Gregory. Bill number 35-0378, an act appropriating funds for the adoption of various portions of the Virgin Islands agriculture plan for fiscal year ending september 30th 2025 proposed by senator novelle e francis jr and senator donna a fred gregory bill number three five dash zero three seven nine and act making various amendments to title 3 33 and 20 of the virgin islands code and making various amendments to acts number eight seven one seven eight five eight five and eight seven five nine proposed by senators novel e francis jr dana a fred gregory marvin blighton and samuel carrion bill number three five dash zero three

eight zero and act appropriating funds received as a result

- 0:36:07 of the civil action captioned the government of the virgin islands the government of the united states virgin islands versus a state of jeffrey e epstein et al civil number st 2020 cv 00014 proposed by senators novell e francis jr donna a fred gregory dwayne the graph marvin blyton Samuel Carrion and Javon E. James Sr. Bill number 35-0381 and act appropriating funding received as a result of the settlement agreement between the government of the United States Virgin Islands versus JPMorgan Chase Bank, NA number 22, CV10904, SDNY, proposed by Senators Novell E. Francis Jr., Donna A. Fred Gregory, Dwayne DeGraff, Marvin Blyden, Samuel Carrion, and Jovan E. James Sr.
- 0:37:17 Madam Chair, that's the end of the agenda. Thank you, Madam Clerk, for the reading of this long agenda that we have. At this time, I'll entertain points of information, Senator. Thank you. Proceed. Thank you so much, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I wanted a point of information to legal counsel.
- 0:37:52 Through the Chair to legal counsel, I wanted their opinion on rule number 313 subsection A item 10, which is titled the closed rule and the committee that has jurisdiction to utilize the rule. Through the Chair to legal counsel, if you can respond to Senator Bulka's request. okay through the chair to senator bolquez oh yeah it's on yeah through the chair to senator bolquez the close rule is used in the committee on rules and the judiciary and that committee has the jurisdiction to report any bills out with a closed rule meaning that it prohibits any substantive amendments to the bills when they're on the floor for consideration.
- 0:38:47 Okay, very well. So once we, this committee has the jurisdiction to utilise that specific rule and moving forward we can just move the bills just on the closed rule and not specifically have to speak out the whole section, correct? Yes, there is only one closed rule and one section that points to the closed rule in the rules of the 35th legislature, and that is the section that you cited, 313A10. And so therefore, the bills will be moved under the closed rule.
- 0:39:27 Okay. Thank you so much, Madam Legal Counsel, and thank you so much, Madam Chair. Thank you, Senator Borges. Thank you, Legal Counsel. of information senator Joseph can you please recognize senator Kala Joseph Mike thank you so much madam chip madam chair I really want to commend your staff and pleasant good evening to everyone and the people of the Virgin Islands first of all really want to commend your staff for reading all of those bills, but I haven't received any of the bills and I cannot in good mind vote on something I haven't received, I haven't read.
- 0:40:19 I don't know about my other colleagues, but I haven't received any of those bills that were read into the record that we're going to be voting on today and we cannot operate in a vacuum. We have to have the bills, Madam Chair. With all due respect. Thank you Senator Joseph. At this time, the Committee of Rules and Judiciary will take a quick recess. Thank you.
- 0:41:34 Thank you. Thank you. I love you. so Thank you. Thank you.
- 0:44:34 Thank you. Oh, my God. is out of recess colleagues we've had a long day I totally get it as I mentioned this committee is the clearinghouse of the bills.
- 0:46:06 We couldn't have this meeting until we got the bills. We're proceeding with this meeting and when we get to each block, if there's a problem, then we would talk about it, we'd discuss it, but let's try to get this done because we have staff that have session tomorrow. So in consideration of them too, let's proceed with this meeting. And colleagues, you have three minutes that I would give each one to discuss all the bills. All 35 bills, three minutes. Because you're gonna have the opportunity tomorrow to also talk about these bills. So let's vote on these bills.
- 0:46:49 Do I hear a motion? Motion, Senator Johnson. Good evening. Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I move that bill number 35-00-87. We'll try your motion. You see how tired I am? Restate, retract my motion.
- 0:47:18 Senator Johnson, please forgive me. Senator Johnson, you may proceed with your three minutes to discuss the bills. Remember, I said we had a long day. thank you very so thank you very much after everyone is finished with their three minutes then we'll go into the motions for all thank you very much madam chair um i don't think i need three minutes for these measures although there's a lot i've been fortunate to take part in a lot of the finance committee meeting though i was not a member of that committee and i want to say thanks to the committee for all the work that they did i also had a chance to go to the markup and took part in a couple of the markup meetings and those that I didn't had the opportunity to take I had to take part in my committee that I am assigned to meetings so at the appropriate time I will be voting on these measures because I had the opportunity to either been in the finance committee hearing these bills that they come through or being a part of the markup for a couple of the meetings and discuss these matters and have very enough information to hold my position to vote on them. So at the appropriate time, I'll be voting on all of these measures in this block. Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Thank you, Senator Johnson. Senator Potter, Vice Chair of this committee, you may proceed with three minutes. Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

- 0:48:39 Good evening, colleagues, and to the people of the Virgin Islands. Madam Chair, the passage of a fiscal year budget really by the Virgin Islands legislature is one of the most important duties of of this body. It is crucial for ensuring the effective allocation of resources, maintaining essential services, and fostering economic stability. The well-structured budget not only reflects the territory's priorities, but also supports the public welfare, infrastructure development, and sustainable growth, ultimately enhancing the quality of life for the people this territory. Kudos to the chair of the Committee on Budget Appropriation and Finance, Senator Donna Fred Gregory, as well as the members of that committee and non-members for the hard work that they put into making this bill of reality all summer long, really. One of the more common themes that we saw among the various departments who were here still is the ability to recruit and retain talent. It is still something that's elusive for us that we need to develop some creative strategy to ensure that we are able to recruit and retain quality personnel to do the work of government. We're talking about police officers, teachers, fiscal personnel, nurses, social workers, et cetera. At the appropriate time, I will vote in the affirmative for this FY 2025 budget. Thank you very much, Madam Chair.
- 0:50:23 Thank you, Senator Potter. Senator Gittins, you may proceed with three minutes. Thank you, Madam Chair and colleagues. support most if not all of the measures before us which are budget measures which are essential to the effective operation of our Virgin Islands government and as we navigate through the complexities of governance I just want to impress of the imperativeness that we prioritize, accountability across the board in our financial decisions. There's, I said most if not all because there's one bill that I was not going to support. However, I will support the measure, and that's the funding for the Board of Elections. I continue to say that I will not support measures that seeks to fund party primaries.
- 0:51:41 However, I know that this budget is tied to the salaries of those hardworking employees, and so therefore I'll be forced to support that. However, I want us to look at that in the future. And while I didn't hear much during the budget process about austerity measures, I want to urge the administration to embrace the role as good stewards of public funds and let's just make sure that we do what we're supposed to do, especially so that we don't see our students having to protest for a better learning environment and let's do what we're supposed to do for our future leaders. At the appropriate time, I will vote on these measures that's before us. Thank you.
- 0:52:35 Thank you, Senator Gittins. Senator Maurice James, you may proceed with three minutes. Thank you Madam Chair, good evening Virgin Islands, good evening colleagues, good evening to everyone inside and outside of the room. I would first like to commend the Committee on Budget Appropriations and Finance for their tireless work in crafting this fiscal 2025 budget the congress hours spent reviewing analyzing and adjusting the numbers reflect a deep commitment to ensuring that this budget serves the needs of our people the work you've done is not just about numbers it's about prioritizing the well-being of our community thank you to the committee for your service and senator donna fred gregory for your leadership in navigating the fiscal challenges a budget is a moral document it shows what we prioritize as a government and the needs we are determined to meet as we continue to invest in education health care infrastructure and essential services we are signaling that these areas are not just line items but lifelines for our community while it's true that effective management is critical we cannot overlook the fact that some vital programs remain underfunded it is not just a matter of managing resources but ensuring that those resources are sufficient to meet the growing needs of our community a budget is a reflection of our values if programs providing essential services are struggling it's because we haven't made we haven't yet made the necessary investments
- 0:54:40 fiscal responsibility is more is about more than balancing books it's about ensuring that every dollar benefits the people who need it most in addition to managing our resources wisely It is also critical that we continue finding innovative ways to raise revenue and stimulate our economy without placing a burden on our taxpayers. We must explore opportunities to diversify our economy, attract new industries and encourage business growth. A strong economy is built on investments in our workforce, infrastructure and communities. And through this, we can generate sustainable revenue while protecting the livelihoods of our citizens. I will be voting at the appropriate time for the budget with the view that we will find ways to provide the programs I talked about, I'm not going to name them specifically, but provide them with the funding they need to serve the least among us and the most vulnerable among our citizens. Thank you. Thank you, Senator James. At this time, Senator Carla Joseph, you may proceed with your three minutes.
- 0:56:04 Thank you so kindly, Madam Chair, and I want to really thank your staff for doing a human job to try to get me some of the budget bills that were just passed out of the Committee on Budget Appropriations and Finance. I really want to commend the chairwoman and the team of the Committee on Budget Appropriations and Finance for the Yeoman job that they've done.
- 0:56:34 I sat in on many of the meetings, even into the late hours, even to last evening, and working with them to help put together some of the measures that we have here today. I definitely know that it's very vital to the operation of our

government that we pass a balanced budget. But I do have some concerns regarding one bill and it's because I know that I really think it needed to go through a system of vetting if we are really to say and be true to the word transparency and collaboration and that's bill number 35 that's 0272 which seeks to raise funding through a surcharge on rental car vehicles i love inclusion that's how you get the best results and operating in a vacuum knowing that these industries are especially car rental industries are really small business which we tout as the lifeblood of our economy we had a meeting on tuesday this past week where we see that there is a level of out unaccountability practical lawlessness with various modes of transportation that are not licensed sometimes we penalize the saints for the sinners okay and so these this tax in itself i i really applaud the the initiative by the proponent but this in particular this piece of legislation it's my position it should have had that level of discussion with those mom and pop because some of them are small business owners here in the virgin islands regarding how this could affect their business yes the visitors are going to pay for it but our islands are already expensive and so if they choose another mode of transportation that's going to put us in another issue because we are not going to be getting the income taxes from the car rental people because what they have to close down their businesses. So I just wanted to see that. I always go with caution when we are looking to tax anything, especially knowing that we have a large amount, I'm going to say it again, 300, about 300 million dollars in income taxes that are due to us as a government. We have 13 million dollars in bad checks we have 68 million dollars that we in federal funds that we have not drawn down on we need to do better at managing our money and and i didn't go into the property taxes the liquid property taxes how can i forget that that is another sizable amount of money we have to do better with managing our resources and collecting the money we can't continue to

- 1:00:04 just punish the saints the people who are good and paying and also contributing to our economy and who are diligent in paying their taxes because it's an easy route to get them to do it We have to go after those persons who are derelict and delinquent and transform them into good tax-paying people. So that's my only concern.
- 1:00:35 I'm going to read through the other bills, and hopefully I get all of them by the time I'm needing to vote, but that's my position. And I just want to commend everyone, especially the staff and post audit for all that they did to put this together as well as the legal counsel to put all the work they did. And Madam Chair, I want to thank you for the time. Thank you, Senator Carla Joseph.
- 1:01:06 At this time, Senator Volkes, you may proceed with three minutes. Please acknowledge Senator Boca's mic. Thank you, Madam Chair, and good evening, Madam Chair and colleagues. And first, I wanted to echo the sentiments of all of my colleagues concerning all of the hard work that the Committee on Budget Appropriations and Finance has done, pertinent to balancing the budget. But I'm going to take some particular time, I didn't initially want to do this, to speak on Bill No. 35-0272. Go ahead. Before I do that, it is no secret that in this institution, past and present, members have special audit bills to session that have not been heard and passed through session and passed into law.
- 1:01:52 So when we say certain allegory things about not being heard or spoken on, I don't necessarily believe that that is accurate and true in the sense of we know the challenges that the budget appropriations and finance committee had concerning balance in the budget and it was said by the members of this of that committee that a portion thereof of these proceedings are going to be utilized for the fiscal year 2025 budget. We have a serious problem here in the Virgin Islands where we don't have the proper population to provide or saturate our tax base for us to be able to provide enough taxation to balance our budget seamlessly to balance our budget seamlessly and this particular surcharge does not fall directly on the shoulders of the people this rent a rental vehicle is a luxury it is not a quality of life item i will say it again a rental vehicle is a luxury it is not a quality of life item predominantly this tax will affect our tourists our tourist base yes we have individuals who may have a vehicle that needs repaired and may want to need or want to need to rent a vehicle or perhaps has family visiting in town and wants to rent a vehicle the tax has not been changed since the 90s So we really need to look at how we're going to be able to provide enough taxation to saturate or provide enough monies to our general fund and this is one of the measures that I am putting forward along with some of my other colleagues who have supported it in the finance committee and I'm looking forward to driving it straight through the finish line come session day. And that is all I have to say Madam Chair. Thank you so much for the time. Thank you Senator Boquez. I'd like to recognize non-committee member
- 1:03:55 Senator Ray Fonseca. You may proceed with three minutes. Yes thank you so kindly Madam Chair and a pleasant good evening to the listening audience. You know I'd like to give special congratulations to my colleagues for approving amendment number 35-1009 to bill number 35-0365. You see, what the legislature have now been able to accomplish is we have appropriated \$352,000 to fix this sewage problem that we have in the whole town of charlotte amalia you know right now in the back of windward passage hotel yes sir papa in the back of windward passage hotel the sewer has been backed up there for months since last year the sewer back up there and it is a public health hazard it smells bad and it's a nuisance so this legislature in this budget approval bill we have appropriated the funds so that we can waste management

can purchase the the pumps and the fittings and fix the drainage for the whole tongue and this go all the way down to the airport you know part of the problem have you ever noticed when you're down to the airport sometime depending on the wind you smell a little sweet breeze well all of this is because of the drainage have been backed up and you know i'm so proud of the legislature and i'd like to thank my colleagues in addition to that with bill 35-0381 you know me being the chair of the health hospitals and human services committee the legislature has now appropriated funds to repair the other side of the

1:06:05 Eldra Schultebrand facility. You know, the Eldra Schultebrand facility is a 64-bed facility, but so long we've been operating with only 32 beds. This will now repair the other side that has been damaged since the hurricane so that we can provide more mental assistance and this is 24 hour 365 day mental care to our patients so you know this is amazing in addition to that we've appropriated 20 million dollars to provide for elderly care assistance you know we need to repair the herbert greg homes right now there are 18,641 seniors in the territory above the age of 65. Many of them need to be in an assisted care living. What happens now is they're presented to the hospital as borders and that costs the government because the hospital is not the ideal place to have the borders. It's so encouraging. In addition to that, the Virgin Islands have been able to appropriate, the Virgin Islands 35th legislature has been able to appropriate a little bit over four million dollars to continue negotiations to purchase the seaview nursing home you know seaview nursing home is another important facility that provides uh space and beds to treat those mental patients those ill elderly patients and also the youths that's right those youths that are expelled from the schools Because of mental and behavioral issues, a lot of those youths ended up in the Seaview nursing home for care. So I'm so proud of all of these major accomplishments that the 35th legislature has been able to accomplish. And I continue to congratulate my colleagues on all of the hard work that we have done with approving this budget. and i'd like to thank you so kindly madam chair for this precious times and blessings blessings have a good evening and this is your humble servant senator ray fonseca thank you thank you senator fonseca who is a member of the finance committee and thank you for your hard work during the budget season. I had the opportunity

1:08:50 to attend about 15 meetings and you were there and with your numbers telling them about your numbers and it was impressive so thank you for the job well done. I just want to say that yesterday I came to the finance meeting and one One thing that I spoke during my time was asking the departments to please demonstrate fiscal responsibility. It's just like any household or business that must balance its spending. The government has to do the same. So I ask that you demonstrate fiscal responsibility, financial discipline and make sure you improve the management of public funds so with the essence of time i will now entertain a motion on bill number 35 0087 motion senator johnson Madam Chair, I move that bill number 35-0087, an act amended Title 33, Virgin Islands Code Chapter 111 to add Section 3038A to establish in the treasury of the Virgin Islands a special Fund designated as a Veterans Mainland Travel Revolving Fund and appropriating \$250,000 for reimbursement for Veterans Affairs to travel outside of the VA Caribbean Health Care Network for necessary medical care be voted on favorably in the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and be forward to the full body under the closed rule I so move motion properly

1:10:52 made by Senator Johnson and seconded by Senator Gittins Senator Potter may I have roll call on bill number 35-0087 Senator Anghel L. Borges, Jr. Yeah. Senator Borges, yeah. Senator Diane T. K. Park. Yes. Senator K. Park, yeah. Senator Kenneth L. Gittins. Yes. Senator Gittins, yeah. Senator Maurice C. James. Yes. Senator James, yeah. Senator Franklin D. Johnson. Yes. Senator Johnson, yeah. Senator Carla J. Joseph. Yes, I received the bill. Senator Joseph, yeah. Senator Milton E. Potter. Yes. Senator Potter-Yate. Madam Chair, you have seven yays.

1:11:38 Thank you, Madam Clerk. Bill number 35-0087 has been voted upon favorably by the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and will be reported out to the full body for further consideration under close rule motion motion senator johnson madam chair i move that bill number 35027 rephrase rephrase bill number 350272 and act amended title 20 of virgin islands code Part 2, Chapter 38, Section 425A, relating to the increase in the motor vehicle rental surcharge and Title 33, Virgin Islands Code, Chapter 111, Section 3002, relating to increased funding in the District Public Road Fund.

1:12:43 Be voted on favorably in the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and be forwarded to the full body under the closed rule ISO move. Second. Motion properly made by Senator Johnson and seconded by Senator Potter. May I have roll call on bill number 35-0272. Senator Angel L. Bocas Jr.

1:13:13 Yes. Senator Bocas, yes. Senator Diane T. Capehart. Yes. Senator Capehart, yes. Senator Kenneth L. Gittins. Yes. Senator Gittins, yay. Senator Maurice C. James. Yes. Senator James, yay. Senator Franklin D. Johnson. Yes. Senator Johnson, yay. Senator Carla J. Joseph. Yes, I have that bill. Senator Joseph, yay. Senator Milton E. Potter. Yes. Senator Potter, yay. Madam Chair, you have seven yays.

- 1:13:46 Thank you, Madam Clerk. Bill number 35-0272, an act amending title 20, Virgin Islands Code, part two, chapter 38, section 425A related to an increase in motor vehicle rental surcharge. Madam Clerk, can you please calculate the vote?
- 1:14:29 Mark Senator Carla Joseph as no and recalculate. Madam Chair, you have six yeas, one nay. Thank you Madam Clerk. Title number 35.0272, an act amending Title 20, Virgin Islands Code, Part 2, Chapter 38, Section 425A, related to an increase in the motor vehicle rental surcharge, and the Title 33, Virgin Islands Code, Chapter 111, Section 3002, related to an increased funding in the the district public road fund has been voted upon this committee favorably and forwarded to the rules and judiciary and to the full body for full consideration for under closed rule. Motion Senator Johnson.
- 1:15:38 Madam Chair, I move that Bill number 350341, rephrase, Bill number 350341, an act providing an appropriation for appropriating expense of the Virgin Islands Board of Education from the General Fund of the Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands during the physical year, October 1, 2024 through September 30th, 2025, be voted on favorably in the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and be forwarded to the full body under the Closed Rule. I so move.
- 1:16:24 Motion properly made by Senator Johnson and seconded by Senator Potter. May I have roll call on Bill Number 350341. Senator Angel L. Bocas, Jr. Yes. Senator Bocas, Jr., yay. Senator Diane T. Capehart. Yes. Senator Capehart, yay. Senator Kenneth L. Gittins. Yes. Senator Gittins, yay. Senator Maurice C. James. Yes. Senator James, yay. Senator Franklin D. Johnson. Yes. Senator Johnson, yay. Senator Carla J. Joseph. Yes. Senator Joseph, yay. Senator Milton E. Potter. Yes. Senator Potter, yay. Madam Chair, you have seven yeas.
- 1:17:10 Thank you, Madam Clerk. Bill number 35-0341, an act providing an appropriation for the operating expenses of the Virgin Islands Board of Education from the General Fund of the Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands during the fiscal year October 1, 2024, through September 30th, 2025, has been voted upon favorably by the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and will be reported out to the full body for further consideration under Closed Rule. Motion.
- 1:17:49 Motion, Senator Johnson. Madam Chair, I move that Bill Number 350342, an act providing an appropriation for the operating expense of the Virgin Islands Office the Inspector General from the General Fund of the Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands for Fiscal Year 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025 be voted on favorably in the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and be forwarded to the full body under the Closed Rule. I so move.
- 1:18:25 Motion properly made by Senator Johnson, seconded by Senator Boquez, and Senator Carla Joseph may I have roll call and bill number 35 that's zero three four two Senator Angel L. Bocas Jr. Senator Bocas yay Senator Dianne T. Capehart yes Senator Capehart yay Senator Kenneth L. Gittins Senator Gittins yay Senator Maurice C. James Senator James yay Senator Franklin D. Yes.
- 1:18:59 Senator Johnson, yes. Senator Johnson, yes. Senator Carla J. Joseph, yes. Senator Joseph, yes. Senator Joseph, yes. Senator Milton E. Potter, yes. Senator Potter, yes. Senator Potter, yes. Madam Chair, you have seven yeas. Thank you, Madam Clerk. Bill number 35-0342, an act providing an appropriation for the operating expense, expenses of the virgin islands office of inspector general from the general fund of the treasury of the government of the virgin islands for fiscal year october 1 2024 through september 30th 2025 has been voted upon favorably by the committee on rules and judiciary and will be reported out to the full body for further consideration under closed rule motion motion senator johnson madam chair I move that Bill No. 350343, providing an appropriation for the operating expense of the Virgin Islands Career and Technical Education Board from the General Fund of the Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands during the fiscal year, October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025, be voted on favourably in the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and be forwarded to the full body under the closed rule.
- 1:20:21 Motion properly made by Senator Johnson, seconded by Senator Potter and Senator Carla Joseph, may I have, and Senator Maurice James, may I have roll call and bill number 35.0343. Senator Angel L. Borges, Jr. Senator Borges, Jr. Yay. Senator Diane T. K.
- 1:20:49 Pott. Senator K. Senator Kenneth L. Gittins? Yes. Senator Gittins, yay. Senator Maurice C. James? Senator James, yay. Senator Franklin D. Johnson? Yes. Senator Johnson, yay. Senator Carla J. Joseph? Yes. Senator Joseph, yay. Senator Milton E. Potter? Yes. Senator Potter, yay. Madam Chair, you have seven yeas. Bill number 35-0343, an act providing an appropriation for the operating expenses of the Virgin Islands Career and Technical Education Board from the General Fund of the Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands during the fiscal year, October 1, 2024 through September 30th, 2025, has been voted upon favourably by the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and will be reported out to the full body for full consideration under Closed Rule.
- 1:21:46 motion motion senator johnson madam madam chair i move that bill number 350344 an act providing an appropriation for the operating expense of the virgin island hospital and health facility cooperation from the general fund of the treasury of the government of the virgin islands for the fiscal fiscal year october 1 2024 through september 30th 2025 be voted on favorably in the committee and rules and judiciary and be forward to the full body under the closed rule i so move motion

properly made by senator johnson seconded by senator kala joseph may have roll call and bill number 35.0344 Senator Angel L. Bogues, Jr. Yeah. Senator Bogues, yay. Senator Diane T. Capehart. Yes. Senator Capehart, yay.

- 1:22:47 Senator Kenneth L. Gittins. Yes. Senator Gittins, yay. Senator Maurice C. James. Yes. Senator James, yay. Senator Franklin D. Johnson. Yes. Senator Johnson, yay. Senator Carla J. Joseph. Senator Joseph, yay. Senator Milton E. Potter. Yes. Senator Potter, yay. Madam Chair, you have seven yays. Thank you, Madam Clerk. Bill number 35.0344, an act providing an appropriation for the operating expenses of the Virgin Islands Hospital and Health Facilities Corporation from the General Fund of the Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands for the fiscal year October 1, 2024 through September 30th, 2025, has been voted upon favorably by the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and will be reported out to the full body for further consideration under Closed Rule.
- 1:23:48 Motion. Finito. Oh, okay. Motion, Senator Gittins. Listen. yes thank you madam chair and colleagues I move that bill number 35 that's zero three four five an act providing an appropriation for salaries and expenses of the Virgin Islands Board of Elections and the office of the supervisor of elections for the fiscal year October 1 2024 through September 30 2025 be voted upon favorably and forwarded to the full body for further consideration under the closed rule. I so move.
- 1:24:45 Motion properly made by Senator Gittins and seconded by Senator Johnson, Bolquez, Senator Carla Joseph, and Potter, may I have roll call and bill number 35-0345. Senator Angel L. Bolquez Jr. Senator Bolquez Jr. Yay. Senator Diane T. K. Pot. Yes.
- 1:25:15 Senator K. Pot. Yay. Senator Kenneth L. Gittins. Yes. Senator Gittins. Yes. Senator James, yes. Senator James, yes. Senator James, yes. Senator Franklin D. Johnson, yes. Senator Johnson, yes. Senator Johnson, yes. Senator Carla J. Joseph, yes. Senator Joseph, yes. Senator Joseph, yes. Senator Milton E. Potter, yes. Senator Potter, yes. Senator Potter, yes. Madam Chair, you have seven yays. Thank you, Madam Clerk.
- 1:25:45 Bill number 35-0345, an act providing an appropriation for salaries and expenses of the Virgin Islands board of elections and the office of the supervisor of elections for the fiscal year October 1, 2024 through through September 30th, 2025 has been voted upon favorably by the committee on rules and judiciary and will be reported out to the full body for further consideration and under close rule.
- 1:26:20 Motion. Motion, Senator Gittins. Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair and colleagues, I move that Bill number 35, that's 0346, an act providing an appropriation for the operation of the judicial branch of the government of the Virgin Islands, the Judicial Council, and the Office of the Territorial Public Defender during the fiscal year October 1, 2024 through September 30th, 2025 be voted upon favorably in this committee and be forwarded to the full body under the closed rule, I so move.
- 1:26:58 Motion properly made by Senator Gittins and seconded by Senator Carla Joseph. Senator Potter, did I hear Senator Johnson? And Senator Johnson, may I have roll call and bill number 35.0346. Senator Angel L. Bocas Jr. Yeah. Senator Bocas Jr., yeah. Senator Diane T. Capehart. Yeah. Senator Capehart, yeah. Senator Kenneth L. Gittins. Yes. Senator Gittins, yeah. Senator Maurice C. James. Yes. Senator James, yeah. Senator Franklin D. Johnson. Yes. Senator Johnson, yeah. Senator Carla J. Joseph. Yes. Senator Joseph, yeah. Senator Milton E. Potter. Yes. Senator Potter-Yay.
- 1:27:44 Madam Chair, you have seven yays. Thank you, Madam Clerk. Bill number 35-03-46 an act providing an appropriation for the operation of the judicial branch of the government of the Virgin Islands, the Judicial Council, and the Office of the Territorial Public Defender during the fiscal year October 1, 2024, through September 30th, 2025 has been voted upon favorably by the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and will be reported out to the full body for further consideration under Closed Rule.
- 1:28:26 Motion. Motion, Senator Gittins. Thank you, Madam Chair and colleagues. I move that Bill Number 35-0347, an act providing an appropriation for the operating expenses of the Public Employees Relations Board and the Virgin Islands Labor Management Committee for the fiscal year, October 1, 2024, through September 30th, 2025, be voted upon favorably here in this committee and be forwarded to the full body for further consideration under the closed rule. I so move.
- 1:28:59 Do I hear a second? Motion properly made by Senator Gittins and seconded by Senator Carla Joseph and Senator Potter may have roll call on bill number 35-0347. Senator Angel L. Bocas Jr. Senator Bocas Jr. Senator Dianne T. K. Pott. Senator K. Pott. Senator Kenneth L. Gittins. Senator Gittins. Senator Maurice C. James. Senator James. Senator Franklin D. Johnson. Senator Johnson, yay. Senator Carla J. Joseph. Senator Joseph, yay. Senator Milton E. Potter. Senator Potter, yay. Madam Chair, you have seven yays.
- 1:29:49 Bill number 35-0347, an act providing an appropriation for the operating expenses of the Public Employees Relations Board and the Virgin Islands Labor Management Committee for the fiscal year October 1, 2025, 2024, sorry, through

September 30th, 2025, has been voted upon favorably by the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and will be reported out of this committee to the full body for further consideration under full closed rule.

- 1:30:28 Motion. Motion, Senator Gittins. Thank you, Madam Chair and colleagues, I move that bill number 35, as 0348 enact providing an appropriation from the St. Query Capital Improvement Fund to the government of the Virgin Islands, to the Virgin Islands Department of Public Works, for road repair and maintenance projects in fiscal year ending September 30th, 2025. Be voted upon favorably here in this committee and forwarded to the full body for further consideration under the closed rule, I so move. Second.
- 1:31:01 Second. Second. Motion properly made by Senator Gittins and seconded by Senator Carla Joseph, Senator Potter, Senator Johnson, Senator Boquez. May I have roll call on bill number 35.0348. Senator Angel L. Boquez Jr. Yes. Senator Boquez Jr. Yes. Senator Diane T. Capehart. Yes. Senator Capehart, yes. Senator Kenneth L. Gittins. Yes. Senator Gittins, yes. Senator Maurice C. James. Senator James, yay. Senator Franklin D. Johnson. Senator Johnson, yay. Senator Carla J. Joseph. Senator Joseph, yay. Senator Milton E. Potter. Senator Potter, yay. Madam Chair, you have seven yays.
- 1:31:49 Thank you, Madam Clerk. Bill number 35-0348, an act providing an appropriation from the St. Croix Capital Improvement Fund of the government of the Virgin Islands to the Virgin Islands Department of Public Works for road repair and maintenance projects in the fiscal year ending September 30th, 2025, has been voted upon favorably by the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and will be reported out to the full body for further consideration under Closed Rule.
- 1:32:29 Motion. Motion Senator Gittins. Madam Chair and colleagues, I move that bill number 35, that's 0349, an act providing an appropriation from the St. Thomas Capital Improvement Fund of the government of the Virgin Islands to the Virgin Islands Department of Public Works for road repairs and maintenance projects in the fiscal year ending September 30th, 2025 2025 be voted upon favorably here in this committee and be forwarded to the full body for further consideration under the closed rule i so move motion properly made by senator gittins seconded by senator kala joseph senator potter senator bolquez senator johnson May I have roll call on bill number 35-0349.
- 1:33:28 Senator Angel L. Bocas Jr. Yes. Senator Bocas Jr. Yes. Senator Diane T. K. Pott. Yes. Senator K. Pott. Yes. Senator Kenneth L. Gittins. Yes. Senator Gittins. Yes. Senator Maurice C. James. Yes. Senator James. Yes. Senator Franklin D. Johnson. Yes. Yay. Senator Carla J. Joseph. Yes. Senator Joseph. Yay. Senator Milton E. Potter. Yes. Senator Potter. Yay. Madam Chair, you have seven yays.
- 1:33:57 Bill number 35-0349, an act providing an appropriation from the St. Thomas Capital Improvement Fund of the Government of the Virgin Islands to the Virgin Islands Department of Public Works for road repair and maintenance projects in the fiscal year ending September 30th, 2025, has been voted upon favorably by the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and will be reported out to the full body for further consideration under Closed Rule.
- 1:34:32 Motion. Motion, Senator Gittins. Madam Chair and colleagues, I move that bill number 35, the 0350 and act providing an appropriation from the St. John Capital Improvement Fund of the government of the Virgin Islands to the Virgin Islands Department of Public Works for road repair and maintenance projects in the fiscal year ending September 30th, 2025, be voted upon favorably here in this committee and be forwarded to the full body for further consideration under the closed rule. I so move.
- 1:35:03 Second. Second. Motion properly made by Senator Gittins and seconded by Senator Carla Joseph, Senator Potter, Senator Johnson, and Senator Boquez may have roll call on bill number 35.0350. Senator Angel L. Boquez, Jr., Senator Boquez, Senator Dianne T. Capehart, Senator Capehart, Senator Kenneth L. Gittins. Senator Gittins, yay. Senator Maurice C. James. Senator James, yay. Senator Franklin D. Johnson.
- 1:35:40 Senator Johnson, yay. Senator Carla J. Joseph. Yes. Senator Joseph, yay. Senator Milton E. Potter. Yes. Senator Potter, yay. Madam Chair, you have seven yays. Thank you, Madam Clerk. Bill number 35.0350, an act providing an appropriation from the St. John Capital Improvement Fund of the Government of the Virgin Islands to the Virgin Islands Department of Public Works for road repair, maintain and projects in the fiscal year ending September 30th, 2025 has been voted upon favorably by the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and will be reported out to the full body for further consideration under closed rule.
- 1:36:28 Do I hear a motion on Bill No. 35-0351? Motion. Motion, Senator Potter. Madam Chair, I move that Bill No. 35-0351, an act providing an appropriation for the operating expenses of the Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority from the General Fund of the Treasury of the government of the Virgin Islands during fiscal year October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025 be favorably voted upon by the Committee of Rules and Judiciary and forwarded to the full body under the closed rule for further consideration and action. I so move.

- 1:37:13 Second. Second. Motion properly made by Senator Potter and seconded by Senator Carla Joseph, Senator Senator Johnson, Senator Bolquez, may I have roll call and bill number 35-0351. Senator Angel L. Bolquez Jr. Yeah. Senator Bolquez Jr. Yeah. Senator Diane T. Capehart. Yes. Senator Capehart. Yeah. Senator Kenneth L. Gittins. Yes. Senator Gittins. Yeah. Senator Maurice C. James. Senator James. Yeah. Senator Johnson. Yes. Senator Johnson, yay. Senator Carla J. Joseph. Yes. Senator Joseph, yay. Senator Milton E. Potter. Yes.
- 1:37:59 Senator Potter, yay. Madam Chair, you have seven yays. Thank you, Madam Clerk. Bill number 35-0351, an act providing an appropriation for the operating expenses of the Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority from the General Fund of the Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands during the fiscal year October 1, 2024, through September 30th, 2025, has been voted upon favorably by the Committee on Rules and Judiciary, and will be reported out to the full body for further consideration under Closed Rule.
- 1:38:43 Motion. Motion, Senator Potter. Madam Chair, I move that bill number 35-0352, an act providing an appropriation for the operating expenses of the Public Services Commission for the fiscal year, October 1, 2024 through September 30th, 2025, be favorably voted upon by the Committee of Rules and Judiciary and forwarded to the full body under the closed rule for further consideration and action. I so move.
- 1:39:16 Motion properly made by Senator Potter and seconded by Senator Maurice James and Senator Carla Joseph. May I have roll call on bill number 35-0352. Senator Angel L. Bocas, Jr. Senator Bocas, yay. Senator Diane T. K. Part. Yes. Senator K. Part, yay. Senator Kenneth L. Gittins. Senator Gattins, yay. Senator Maurice C. James, Senator James, yay. Senator Franklin D. Johnson, yes. Senator Johnson, yay. Senator Carla J. Joseph, yes. Senator Joseph, yay.
- 1:39:56 Senator Milton E. Potter, yes. Senator Potter, yay. Madam Chair, you have seven yays. Bill number 35-0352, an act providing an appropriation for the operating expenses of the Public Service Commission for the fiscal year, October 1, 2024, through September 30th, 2025, has been voted upon favorably by the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and will be reported out to the full body for further consideration under Closed Rule. Motion.
- 1:40:33 Motion, Senator Potter. Madam Chair, I move that Bill Number 35-0353, an act providing an appropriation for the salaries and expenses of the University of the Virgin Islands for the fiscal year October 1, 2024, through September 30th, 2025, be favorably voted upon by the Committee of Rules and Judiciary and forwarded to the full body under the closed rule for further consideration and action. I so move.
- 1:41:06 Motion properly made by Senator Potter and seconded by Sen. Maurice James, Sen. Carla Joseph, and Sen. Borges, and Sen. Johnson. May I have roll call on Bill 35.0353. Sen. Angel L. Borges, Jr. Sen. Borges, yea. Sen. Dianne T. K. Part, yea. Sen. Kenneth L. Gittins, Senator Gittins, yay. Senator Maurice C. James, yes. Senator James, yay. Senator Franklin D. Johnson, yes. Senator Johnson, yay. Senator Carla J. Joseph, yes. Senator Joseph, yay.
- 1:41:46 Senator Milton E. Potter, yes. Senator Potter, yay. Madam Chair, you have seven yays. Thank you, Madam Clerk. Bill number 35.0353, an act providing an appropriation appropriation for the salaries and expenses of the University of the Virgin Islands for the fiscal year October 1, 2024 through September 30th, 2025 has been voted upon favorably by the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and will be reported out to the full body for further consideration under Closed Rule.
- 1:42:21 Motion? Motion, Senator Potter. Madam Chair, I move that Bill No. 35-0354, an act providing an appropriation from the Anti-Litter and Beautification Fund to the Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority and the Virgin Islands Department of Public Works for operating expenses during the fiscal year October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025, be favorably voted upon by the Committee of Rules and Judiciary and forwarded to the full body for further consideration and action under the closed rules. I so move.
- 1:43:01 Second. Motion properly made by Senator Potter and seconded by Senator Johnson and Senator Carla Joseph. May I have roll call on Bill No. 35-0354. Senator Angel L. Bocas Jr. Senator Bocas Jr. Senator Dianne T. Capehart? Yes. Senator Capehart, yay. Senator Kenneth L. Gittins? Yes. Senator Gittins, yay. Senator Maurice C. James? Yes. Senator James, yay. Senator Franklin D. Johnson? Yes. Senator Johnson, yay. Senator Carla J. Joseph?
- 1:43:38 Yes. Senator Joseph, yay. Senator Milton E. Potter? Yes. Senator Potter, yay. Madam Chair, you have seven yays. Bill number 35-0354, an act providing an appropriation from the Anti-Litter and Beautification Fund to the Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority and the Virgin Islands Department of Public Works for Operating Expenses during the fiscal year October 1, 2024 through September 30th, 2025, has been voted upon favorably by the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and will be reported out to the full body for further consideration under closed rule. Motion.
- 1:44:23 Motion. Senator Potter. Madam Chair, I move that Bill No. 35-0355, an act providing an appropriation from the Caribbean Basin Initiative Fund as a contribution to the General Fund of the Treasury of the Virgin Islands for the fiscal year October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025, be favorably voted upon in the Committee of Rules and Judiciary and

forwarded to the full body under the closed rule for further consideration and action. I so move.

- 1:44:57 Second. Motion properly made by Senator Potter and seconded by Senator Johnson and Senator Carla Joseph. May I have roll call on Bill No. 35.0355. Senator Angel L. Bocas Jr. Yes. Senator Volkese, yay. Senator Diane T. K. Park. Yes. Senator K. Park, yay. Senator Kenneth L. Gittins. Yes. Senator Gittins, yay. Senator Maurice C. James. Yes. Senator James, yay. Senator Franklin D. Johnson. Yes. Senator Johnson, yay. Senator Carla J. Joseph. Yes. Senator Joseph, yay. Senator Milton E. Potter. Yes. Senator Potter, yay.
- 1:45:42 Madam Chair, you have seven yays. Thank you. Bill number 35-0355, an act providing an appropriation from the Caribbean Basin Initiative Fund as a contribution to the General Fund of the Treasury of the Virgin Islands for the fiscal year October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025, has been voted upon favorably by the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and will be reported out to the full body for further consideration under closed rule motion motion senator potter madam chair I moved at bill number thirty five dash zero three five six an act providing an appropriation from the business and commercial properties revolving fund to the Virgin Islands Department of Property and Procurement for operating expenses for fiscal year October 1 2024 through September 30th 2025 be favorably voted upon by the Committee of Rules and Judiciary and forwarded to the full body under the closed rules for further consideration and action. I so move. Motion properly made by Senator Potter and seconded by Senator Carla Joseph and seconded by Senator Bolquez. May I have roll call and bill number 35-0356.
- 1:47:08 Yes. Senator Angel L. Boquez, Jr. Yes. Senator Boquez, yay. Senator Diane T. Capehart. Yes. Senator Capehart, yay. Senator Kenneth L. Gittins. Yes. Senator Gittins, yay. Senator Maurice C. James. Yes. Senator James, yay. Senator Franklin D. Johnson. Yes. Senator Johnson, yay. Senator Carla J. Joseph. Yes. Senator Joseph, yay. Senator Milton E. Potter. Yes. Senator Potter, yay. Madam Chair, you have seven yays. Seven yays. Thank you. Bill number 35-0356, an act providing an appropriation from the Business and Commercial Properties Revolving Fund to the Virgin Islands Department of Property and Procurement for the operating expenses for the fiscal year October 1, 2024, through September 30th, 2025, has been voted upon favorably by the Committee on Rules and Judiciary, and will be reported out to the full body for further consideration under Closed Rule.
- 1:48:19 Motion, Senator James. Madam Chair, I move that Bill Number 35.0357, an act providing an appropriation from the Virgin Islands Lottery as a contribution the general fund of the treasury of the government of the virgin islands for the fiscal year october 1 2024 through september 30th 2025 be voted upon favorably in this committee on rules and judiciary and forwarded to the full body for a favorable consideration under closed rule i so move motion properly made by senator marie james and seconded by Sen. Carla Joseph, Sen. Potter, and Sen. Johnson, may I have roll call and bill number 35-0357.
- 1:49:14 Sen. Angel L. Borges, Jr., Sen. Borges, Jr., Sen. Borges, Jr., Sen. Dianne T. K. Park, Sen. K. Park, Sen. Kenneth L. Gittins, Sen. Gittins, Sen. Marise C. James, Sen. James, Yes. Senator Franklin D. Johnson. Yes. Senator Johnson. Yes. Senator Karla J. Joseph. Yes. Senator Joseph. Yes. Senator Milton E. Potter. Yes. Senator Potter. Yes. Senator Potter.
- 1:49:45 Yes. Madam Chair, you have seven yays. Bill number 35-0357, an act providing an appropriation from the Virgin Islands Lottery as a contribution to the general fund of the treasury of the government of the Virgin Islands for the fiscal year October 1, 2024, through September 30, yet 2025, has been voted upon favorably by the Committee on Rules and Judiciary, and will be reported out to the full body for further consideration under closed rule.
- 1:50:19 Motion? Motion, Senator Maryse James. Madam Chair, I move that bill number 35.0358, an act providing for a lump sum appropriation from the Health Revolving Fund to the Virgin Islands Department of Health and a contribution to the general fund of the treasury of the government of the Virgin Islands for fiscal year October 1, 2024 through September 30th, 2025, be voted upon favorably in this committee on Rules and Judiciary and forwarded to the full body for further consideration on the Closed Rule ISO move. Second.
- 1:51:04 Second. Motion properly made by Senator Maurice James and seconded by Senator Potter and Senator Johnson may have roll call on Bill No. 35-0358. 5-8. Senator Angel L. Bocas, Jr. Yes. Senator Bocas, Jr., yay. Senator Diane T. Capehart. Yes. Senator Capehart, yay. Senator Kenneth L. Gittins. Yes. Senator Gittins, yay. Senator Maurice C. James. Yes. Senator James, yay. Senator Franklin D. Johnson.
- 1:51:34 Yes. Senator Johnson, yay. Senator Carla J. Joseph. Yes. Senator Joseph, yay. Senator Milton E. Potter. Yes. Senator Potter, yay. Madam Chair, you have seven yays. Thank you, Madam Clerk. Bill number 35-0358, an act providing for a lump sum appropriation from the Health Revolving Fund to the Virgin Islands Department of Health and a contribution to the General Fund of the Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands for fiscal year October 1, 2024, through September 30th, 2025, has been voted upon favorably by the Committee on Rules and Judiciary, and will be reported out to the full body for further consideration under Closed Rule.

- 1:52:26 Motion. Motion, Senator Maurice James. Madam Chair, I move that Bill Number 35.0360, an act providing an appropriation to the Virgin Islands Taxicab Commission the fiscal year October 1, 2024 through September 30th, 2025 be voted upon favorably in this committee on rules and judiciary and forwarded to the full body for further consideration and action on the closed rule. I so move. Second. Second. Motion properly made by Senator Maurice James and seconded by Senator Carla Joseph, Senator Potter and Senator Johnson. May I have roll call on bill number 35.0360.
- 1:53:17 Senator Angel L. Borges, Jr. Aye. Senator Borges, aye. Senator Dayanti Capehart. Yes. Senator Capehart, aye. Senator Kenneth L. Gittins. Yes. Senator Gittins, aye. Senator Maurice C. James. Yes. Senator James, aye. Senator Franklin D. Johnson. Yes. Senator Johnson, aye. Senator Karla J. Joseph. Yes. Senator Joseph, yay. Senator Milton E. Potter. Yes. Senator Potter, yay. Madam Chair, you have seven yays.
- 1:53:50 Bill number 35-0360, an act providing an appropriation to the Virgin Islands Taxicab Commission for the fiscal year, October 1, 2024 through September 30th, 2025, has been voted upon favorably. favorably by the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and will be reported out to the full body for further consideration under closed rule. Motion. Motion Senator Maryse James. Madam Chair I move that bill number 35.0361 an act providing an appropriation from the Transportation Trust Fund as a contribution to the general fund of the Treasury of the Virgin Islands and to provide operating expenses for the Virgin Islands Bureau of Motor Vehicles and the Department of Public Works for the fiscal year October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025, be voted upon favorably in this committee on rules and judiciary and forwarded to the full body for further consideration under closed rule. I so move.
- 1:55:00 Motion properly made by Senator Maurice James and seconded by Senator carla joseph senator potter and senator johnson may i have roll call on bill number 35-0361 senator angel l borkes jr senator borkes yay senator dianne t k part yes senator k part yay senator kenneth l gittins yes senator gittins yay senator maurice c james yes senator james yay senator franklin d johnson yes senator johnson yay senator carla j joseph yes senator joseph yay senator milton e potter yes senator potter yay madam chair you have seven yays thank you madam clerk bill number 35-0361 an act providing an appropriation from the transportation trust fund as a contribution to the general fund of the treasury of the virgin islands and to provide operating expenses for the vi bureau of motor vehicles and the department of public works for the fiscal year october 1st 2024 through september 30th 2025 has been voted upon favorably by the committee on rules and judiciary and will be reported out to the full body for further consideration under closed rule motion motion senator maurice james madam chair i move that bill number 35-0362 an act providing an appropriation from the virgin islands insurance guarantee fund as a contribution to the general fund of the treasury of the the government of the Virgin Islands for the fiscal year, October 1, 2024 through September 30th, 2025,
- 1:56:59 be voted upon favorably in this committee on rules and judiciary, and forwarded to the full body for further consideration and action under closed rule. I so move. Second. Motion properly made by Senator Maurice James and seconded by Senator Carla Joseph, Senator Potter, Senator Johnson, did I hear you Senator Boquez? And Senator Boquez, Madam Clerk might have roll call on bill number 35-0362. Senator Angel L. Boquez, Jr.
- 1:57:35 Senator Boquez, yay. Senator Diane T. K. Pot. Yes. Senator K. Pot, yay. Senator Kenneth L. Gittins. Yes. Senator Gittins, yay. Senator Maurice C. James. Yes. Senator James, yay. Senator Franklin D. Johnson. Yes. Senator Johnson, yay. Senator Carla J. Joseph. Yes. Senator Joseph, yay. Senator Milton E. Potter. Yes. Senator Potter, yay. Madam Chair, you have seven yays. Thank you.
- 1:58:04 Bill number 35-0362, an act providing an appropriation from the Virgin Islands Insurance Guarantee Fund As a contribution to the general fund of the Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands for fiscal year October 1, 2024 through September 30th, 2025, has been voted upon favorably by the Committee on Rules and Judiciary, and will be reported out to the full body for further consideration under closed rule. Motion. Motion, Senator Maryse James.
- 1:58:39 Madam Chair, I move that bill number 35-0363, an act providing an appropriation for the legislature of the Virgin Islands for the fiscal year, October 1st, 2024 through September 30th, 2025, be voted upon favorably in this committee on rules and judiciary and forwarded to the full body for further consideration and action under closed rule, I so move. Second.
- 1:59:11 Motion properly made by Senator Maurice James and seconded by Senator Johnson, Senator Potter, Senator Karler Joseph. Madam Clerk, may I have roll call on bill number 35-0363. Senator Angel L. Borges, Jr. Senator Borges, Jr., yay. Senator Dianne T. K. Park? Yes. Senator K. Park, yay. Senator Kenneth L. Gittins? Yes. Senator Gittins, yay. Senator Maurice C. James? Yes. Senator James, yay. Senator Franklin D. Johnson? Yes. Senator Johnson, yay. Senator Carla J. Joseph? Yes. Senator Joseph, yay. Senator Milton E. Potter? Yes. Senator Potter, yay.
- 1:59:55 Madam Chair, you have seven yays. Thank you, Madam Clerk. Bill number 35-0363, an act providing an appropriation for the Virgin Islands Legislature of the Virgin Islands for fiscal year October 1, 2024 through September 30th, 2025 has been voted upon favorably by the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and will be reported out to the full body for further

consideration under closed rule. Motion, thank you so kindly Madam Chair, Madam Chair and colleagues, I move that bill number 35-064, an act providing an appropriation from the Tourism Advertising Revolving Fund to the Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority, Office of the Governor, the Virgin Islands department of education the virgin islands police department the virgin islands department of public works the virgin islands department of agriculture the virgin islands department of sports parks and recreation and the virgin islands department of tourism during the fiscal year october 1st 2024 through september 30th 2025 be voted upon favorably in this committee and forwarded to the full body for further action in accordance to the closed rule i so move properly moved by senator carla joseph seconded by senator franklin johnson did i hear another second senator bolquez madam clerk can we please have a roll call senator angel l boquez jr Yes. Senator Boquez, yay. Senator Kenneth L. Gittins. Yes. Senator Gittins, yay. Senator Diane T. Capehart.

- 2:01:56 Yes. Senator Capehart, yay. Senator Maurice C. James. Yes. Senator James, yay. Senator Franklin D. Johnson. Yes. Senator Johnson, yay. Senator Carla J. Joseph. Yes. Senator Joseph, yay. Senator Milton E. Potter. Yes. Senator Potter, yay. Madam Chair, you have seven yays. Thank you, Madam Clerk. Bill number 35-0364, an act providing an appropriation from the Tourism Advertising Revolving Fund to the Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority, Office of the Governor, the Virgin Islands Department of Education, the Virgin Islands Police Department, The Virgin Islands Department of Department, Department Works, Virgin Islands Department of Public Works, missing the word, public. The Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture, Virgin Islands Department of Sports Parks and Recreation, Virgin Islands Department of Tourism during the fiscal year, October 1, 2024, September 30th, 2025 has been voted upon favorably by the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and will be reported out to the full body for further consideration under closed rule.
- 2:03:24 Madam Chair and colleagues, I move that bill number 35-0365, an act providing an appropriation for the operating expenses of the waste management authority from the sewer wastewater fund of the government of the virgin islands for the fiscal year october 1st 2024 through september 30th 2025 be favorably voted upon in this committee and forwarded to the full body for further action in accordance to the closed rule I so move motion properly made by Senator Carla Joseph and seconded by Senator Potter Senator Johnson did I miss another second may have roll call on bill number 35-0365 Senator Angel L. Borges Jr. Senator Borges Jr.
- 2:04:23 Senator Dianne T. Capehart. Yes. Senator Capehart, yay. Senator Kenneth L. Gittins. Senator Gittins, yay. Senator Maurice C. James. Senator James, yay. Senator Franklin D. Johnson. Senator Johnson, yay. Senator Carla J. Joseph. Senator Joseph, yay. Senator Milton E. Potter. Senator Potter, yay. Madam Chair, you have seven yays. Thank you, Madam Clerk. Bill number 35-0365, an act providing an appropriation for the operating expenses of the Waste Management Authority from the Sewer Wastewater Fund of the Government of the Virgin Islands for fiscal year October 1, 2024 through September 30th, 2025 has been voted upon favorably by the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and will be reported out to the full body for further consideration under closed rule.
- 2:05:24 Madam Chair, I move that bill number 35-0366, an act providing an appropriation from the general fund of the treasury of the Virgin Islands to the district public road fund for fiscal year October 1st, 2024 through September 30th, 2025, be voted upon favorably in this committee and forwarded to the full body for further action in accordance to the closed rule. I so move.
- 2:06:00 Second. Motion properly made by Senator Carla Joseph and seconded by Senator Potter, Senator Volquez, Senator Johnson. Roll call on bill number 35-0366. Senator Angel L. Borges, Jr. Senator Borges, Jr., yay. Senator Diane T. Capehart. Yes. Senator Capehart, yay. Senator Kenneth L. Gittins. Senator Gittins, yay. Senator Maurice C. James. Senator James, yay. Senator Franklin D. Johnson. Senator Johnson, yay. Senator Carla J. Joseph? Yes. Senator Joseph, yay. Senator Milton E. Potter? Yes. Senator Potter, yay.
- 2:06:47 Madam Chair, you have seven yays. Thank you, Madam Clerk. Bill number 35-0366, an act providing an appropriation from the General Fund of the Treasury of the Virgin Islands to the District Public Road Fund for fiscal year October 1, 2024 through September 30th, 2025 has been voted upon favorably by the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and will be reported out to the full body for further consideration under closed rule. Do I hear a motion?
- 2:07:21 Motion, Madam Chair. Motion, Senator Collar-Joseph. Madam Chair and colleagues, I move that Bill 35.0373, an act amending act number 8701 by removing the use restrictions on the line of credit, by directing the commissioner of the Virgin Islands Department of Finance, the director of the Virgin Islands Bureau of Internal Revenue, and the Virgin Islands tax assessor to collect outstanding taxes, directing the respective agencies to request the attorney general of the Virgin Islands to prosecute delinquent taxpayers and other related matters. Be favorably voted upon in this committee and forwarded to the full body for further action in accordance to the closed rule. I so move. Motion properly made by Senator Carla Joseph and seconded by Senator Johnson and Senator Potter. Senator Borges may have roll call on bill

number 35.0373.

- 2:08:33 Senator Angel L. Borges, Jr. Senator Borges, Jr., yay. Senator Diane T. K. Part. Yes. Senator K. Part, yay. Senator Kenneth L. Gittins. Yes. Senator Gittins, yay. Senator Maurice C. James. Senator James, yay. Senator Franklin D. Johnson. Yes. Senator Johnson, yay. Senator Carla J. Joseph. Yes. Senator Joseph, yay. Senator Milton E. Potter. Yes. Senator Potter, yay. Madam Chair, you have seven yays.
- 2:09:04 Bill number 35-0373, an act amending act number 8701, by removing the use restrictions on the line of credit by directing the Commissioner of the Virgin Islands Department of Finance, the Director of the Virgin Islands Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Virgin Islands Tax Assessor to collect outstanding taxes, directing the respective agencies to request the Attorney General of the Virgin Islands to prosecute delinquent taxpayers and other related matters has been voted upon favorably by the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and will be reported out to the full body for further consideration under closed rule. Do I hear a motion?
- 2:09:55 Motion. Senator Joseph. Thank you kindly, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I move the bill number 35-0-375 and act amending Title 11 Virgin Islands Code by adding Chapter 3, establishing a wire transfer fee in the amount of 3% of the total amount of money transfer and establishing the money laundering and electronic transaction enforcement fund be favorably voted upon in this committee and forwarded to the full body for further action in accordance to the closed rule. I so move.
- 2:10:40 Motion properly made by Senator Carla Joseph and seconded by Senator Franklin Johnson and Senator Potter. Did I hear Senator Boelquez? And Senator Boelquez may have roll call on bill number 35-0375. Senator Angel L. Boelquez, Jr. Senator Boelquez, yay. Senator Diane T. K. Pot, yes. Senator K. Pot, yay. Senator Kenneth L. Gittins, yes. Senator Gittins, yay. Senator Maurice C. James, yes. Senator James, yay. Senator Franklin D. Johnson, yes. Senator Johnson, yay. Senator Carla J. Joseph. Senator Joseph, yay. Senator Milton E. Potter. Senator Potter, yay. Madam Chair, you have seven yays.
- 2:11:30 Thank you, Madam Clerk. Bill number 35-0375, an act amending Title 11 Virgin Islands Code by adding chapter three, establishing a wire transfer fee in the amount of 3% of the total amount of a money transfer and establishing the money laundering and electronic transaction enforcement fund has been voted upon favorably by the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and will be reported out to the full body for further consideration under closed rule.
- 2:12:11 Senator Boquez, do I hear a motion? Yes, Madam Chair, motion. Before I entertain your motion, Senator Bolkis will take a quick recess. The committee stands in recess for three minutes. Thank you. Thank you. ¶¶ Thank you.
- 2:14:44 the committee of rules and judiciary is out of recess do i hear a motion senator bolquez motion Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I move Bill No. 35-0376, an act providing an appropriation from the General Fund of the Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands for the operation of the Government of the Virgin Islands during fiscal year October 1st, 2024 through September 30th, 2025, be favorably voted upon by this committee of rules and judiciary and forward it to the full body under the closed rule for further action and consideration.
- 2:15:47 I so move. Motion properly made by Senator Angel Borges and seconded by Senator Carla Joseph and Senator Potter. Did I hear a motion from you, Senator Johnson? Yeah. Second. roll call on bill number 35-0377. Senator Angel L. Borges, Jr. Senator Borges, Jr., yea. Senator Dianti Capehart, yea.
- 2:16:16 Senator Capehart, yea. Senator Kenneth L. Gittins, yea. Senator Gittins, yea. Senator Maurice C. James, yea. Senator James, yea. Senator Franklin D. Johnson, yea. Senator Johnson, yea. Senator Carla J. Joseph. Yes. Senator Joseph, yay. Senator Milton E. Potter. Yes. Senator Potter, yay. Madam Chair, you have seven yays. Bill number 35-0377, an act providing for a lump sum appropriation. Seven.
- 2:16:49 Seven, six. Seven, six. Yes. Yes. Seven, six. That is correct. Seven, six. Bill number 35-0376, an act providing an appropriation from the General Fund of the Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands for the operation of the Government of the Virgin Islands during the fiscal year October 1, 2024 through September 30th, 2025, has been voted upon favorably by the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and will be reported out to the full body for further consideration under closed rule.
- 2:17:31 Motion? Motion, Senator Bulquez. Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I move Bill No. 35-0377, an act providing for a lump sum appropriation from the School Construction, Maintenance, and Capital Fund to the Bureau of School Construction and Maintenance for Repair, Renovation, and Maintenance of Public Schools and Facilities for fiscal year October 1st, 2024 through September 30th, 2025, be favorably voted upon in this committee of rules and judiciary and forwarded to the full body under the closed rule for further action and consideration. I so move.

- 2:18:07 Second. Motion properly made by Senator Angel Bocas and seconded by Senator Carla Joseph and Senator Potter and Senator Johnson may have roll call on Bill No. 35.0377. Senator Angel L. Bocas, Jr. Yeah. Senator Bocas, Jr., yeah. Senator Diane T. Capehart. Yes.
- 2:18:34 Senator Capehart, yeah. Senator Kenneth L. Gittins, yeah. Senator Gittins, yeah. Senator Maurice C. James, Senator James, yeah. Senator Franklin D. Johnson, yes. Senator Johnson, yeah. Senator Carla J. Joseph, yeah. Senator Joseph, yeah. Senator Milton E. Potter, yes. Senator Potter, Madam Chair, you have seven yays. Bill number 35-0377, an act providing for a lump sum appropriation from the school construction, maintenance and capital fund to the Bureau of School Construction and Maintenance for repair, renovation and maintenance of public schools and facilities for fiscal year October 1, 2024 through September 30th, 2025 has been voted upon favorably by the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and will be reported out to the full body for further consideration under closed rule.
- 2:19:36 Motion. Motion, Senator Bulquez. Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I move Bill No. 35-0378, an act appropriating funds for the adoption of various portions of the Virgin Islands Agricultural Plan for fiscal year ending September 30th, 25 to be favorably voted upon by this Committee of Rules and Judiciary and forwarded to the full body under closed rule for further action and consideration, I so move. Motion properly made by Senator Bulquez and seconded by Senator Carla Joseph, Senator Potter and Senator Johnson may have roll call on Bill No. 35-0378. Sen. Angel L. Borges, Jr. Sen. Borges, Jr., yay.
- 2:20:21 Sen. Diane T. Capehart. Yes. Sen. Capehart, yay. Sen. Kenneth L. Gittins, yes. Sen. Gittins, yay. Sen. Maurice C. James, yes. Sen. James, yay. Sen. Franklin D. Johnson, yes. Sen. Johnson, yay. Sen. Carla J. Joseph, yes. Sen. Joseph, yay. Sen. Milton E. Potter, yes. Sen. Potter, yay. Madam Chair, you have seven yays. Bill number 35.0378, an act appropriating funds for the adoption of various portions of the Virgin Islands Agricultural Plan for fiscal year ending September 30th, 2025, has been voted upon favorably by the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and will be reported out to the full body for further consideration under closed rule.
- 2:21:12 Motion. I move Bill 35-0379, an act making various amendments to titles 3, 33 and 20 of the Virgin Islands Code and making various amendments to Acts 8717, 8585 and 8759 to be favourably voted upon by this Committee of Rules and Judiciary and forwarded to the full body under the closed rule for further action and consideration, I so move.
- 2:21:47 Motion properly made by Senator Angel Bocas and seconded by Senator Potter. May I have roll call on bill number 35-0379. Senator Angel L. Bocas Jr. Yes. Senator Bocas Jr. Yes. Senator Diane T. K. Pot. Yes. Senator K. Pot. Yes. Senator L. Gittins? Yes. Senator Gittins, yay. Senator Maurice C. James? Yes. Senator James, yay. Senator Carla J. Joseph? Yes. Senator Joseph, yay. Senator Franklin D. Johnson? Yes. Senator Johnson, yay. Senator Milton E. Potter? Yes. Senator Potter, yay. Madam Chair, you have seven yays.
- 2:22:32 Bill number 35-0379, an act making various amendments to Title III, 33 and 20 of the Virgin Islands Code and making various amendments to Acts number 8717, 8585 and 8759 has been voted upon favorably by the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and will be reported out to the full body for further consideration under Closed Rule. Motion? Motion, Senator Bolquez. Thank you, Madam Chair.
- 2:23:08 Madam Chair, I move Bill No. 35-0380, an act appropriating funds received as a result of the civil action captioned, the Government of the United States Virgin Islands versus Estate of Jeffrey E. Epstein et al, civil number ST-2020-CV-00014 be favorably voted upon by this Committee of Rules and Judiciary and forwarded to the full body under the closed rule for further action and consideration, I so move. Motion properly made by Senator Bolkitz and seconded by Senator Carla Joseph.
- 2:23:50 May I have roll call on bill number 35-0380. Senator Angel L. Bocas, Jr. Yeah. Senator Bocas, Jr., yeah. Senator Dianne T. K. Pott. Yes. Senator K. Pott, yeah. Senator Kenneth L. Gittins, yeah. Senator Gittins, yeah. Senator Maurice C. James, Senator James, yeah. Senator Franklin D. Johnson, yes. Senator Johnson, yeah. Senator Carla J. Joseph, yes. Senator Joseph, yeah. Senator Milton E. Potter, yes. Senator Potter, yeah. Madam Chair, you have seven yays. Thank you, Madam Clerk.
- 2:24:29 Bill number 35-0380, an act appropriating funds received as a result of the civil action caption, the government of the Virgin Islands versus a state of Jeffrey E. Epstein et al. Al, civil number ST-2020-CV-00014 has been voted upon favorably by the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and will be reported out to the full body for further consideration under closed rule.
- 2:25:08 Motion. Motion, Senator Bulquez. Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I move bill number 35-0381, an act appropriating funding received as a result of the settlement agreement between the Government of the United States Virgin Islands vs. JPMorgan Chase Bank NA 22-CV-10904 to be favorably voted upon by this Committee of Rules and Judiciary and forwarded to the full body under the Closed Rule for further action and consideration. I so move.

- 2:25:47 Motion properly made by Senator Angel Borges and seconded by Senator Carla Joseph, Senator Milton Potter, may I have roll call on bill number 350381. Senator Angel L. Borges, Jr. Yes. Senator Borges, Jr., yay. Senator Diane T. Capehart. Yes. Senator Capehart, yay. Senator Kenneth L. Gittins. Yes.
- 2:26:17 Yeah. Yes. Senator James. Yes. Senator James. Yes. Senator Franklin D. Johnson. Yes. Senator Johnson. Yes. Senator Carla J. Joseph. Yes. Senator Joseph. Yes. Senator Milton E. Potter. Yes. Senator Potter. Yes. Senator Potter. Yes. Madam Chair, you have seven yays. Bill number 35-0381, an act appropriating funding received as a result of the settlement agreement between the government of the United States Virgin Islands versus JPMorgan Chase Bank NA number 22-CV-10904 SDNY has been voted upon favorably by the Committee on Rules and Judiciary and will be reported out to the full body for further consideration under close rule. Colleagues, this concludes the passing of the 2025 budget, the rules and Judiciary Committee has done their job. It's been a long day.
- 2:27:37 I want to say thank you to my colleagues for being patient. As you know, we couldn't do anything until we had those bills. Just received them, and we did it, and we passed them, and now it's the responsibility of session tomorrow to do its job. I just want to say at this time, I want to say thank you to central staff, to media, to our stenographer, transportation, legal counsel, everyone today who actually played a very important role in getting this through. And my staff, yes media, business office, everyone central staff, I just want to say thank you for all that you do. May God bless the Virgin Islands. The Committee on Rules and Judiciary is hereby adjourned. Thank you.

People named in this transcript

SUSPECTED, and a finding aid only. Names were matched by machine against the spellings used across all 426 of our transcripts, and the title is the one used in the room. Being named here is NOT evidence that a person attended or spoke - only that the name was said. Speech recognition mishears names, so a spelling may be wrong even where no alternative is offered.

- 105x **Senator Milton E. Potter**
heard in this transcript as: Milton Potter, Potter
- 99x **Senator Franklin D. Johnson**
heard in this transcript as: Franklin Johnson, Johnson
- 97x **Senator Carla Joseph**
the surname alone also matches: Clifford Joseph; Karla J. Joseph
heard in this transcript as: Carla J. Joseph, Joseph
- 82x **Senator Marise C. James**
the surname alone also matches: Javan James; Giovanni James Sr
heard in this transcript as: James, Maryse James, Maurice C. James, Maurice James
- 78x **Senator Kenneth L. Gittens**
heard in this transcript as: Gattins, Gittins, Kenneth L. Gittins, L. Gittins
- 39x **Senator Diane T. Capeheart**
heard in this transcript as: Capehart, Dayanti Capehart, Diane T. Capehart, Dianne T. Capehart, Dianti Capehart
- 37x **Senator Angel L. Bolques, Jr.**
heard in this transcript as: Angel L. Boelquez Jr., Angel L. Bogues Jr., Angel L. Bolques Jr., Angel L. Bolquez Jr, Angel L. Boquez Jr, Angel L. Boquez Jr.
- 29x **Senator Angel L. Bocas Jr**
heard in this transcript as: Angel Bocas, Angel L. Bocas Jr., Boca's, Bocas, Bocas Jr, Bocas Jr.
- 23x **Senator Angel L. Borges Jr**
heard in this transcript as: Angel Borges, Angel L. Borges Jr., Anghel L. Borges Jr., Borges, Borges Jr, Borges Jr.
- 11x **Senator Donna A. Frett-Gregory**
heard in this transcript as: Donna A. Fred Gregory, Donna Fred Gregory
- 10x **Senator Novelle Francis**
heard in this transcript as: Novel E. Francis Jr, Novell E. Francis Jr
- 8x **Senator Diane T. K. Pot**
heard in this transcript as: Diane T. K. Pott, Dianne T. K. Pott
- 8x **Senator K. Pot**
heard in this transcript as: K. Pott

6x	Senator Diane T. K. Park heard in this transcript as: Diane T. K. Part, Dianne T. K. Park
6x	Senator Kaye Part heard in this transcript as: K. Park, K. Part
4x	Senator Karla J. Joseph the surname alone also matches: Carla Joseph; Clifford Joseph heard in this transcript as: Karler Joseph
2x	Senator Angel L. Bolkis Jr heard in this transcript as: Bolkis
2x	Senator Dwayne DeGraff heard in this transcript as: DeWayne M. DeGraff
2x	Senator Dwayne M. heard in this transcript as: Diane T. K.
2x	Senator Kurt A. the surname alone also matches: Dwayne M. heard in this transcript as: K.
2x	Senator Ray Fonseca
1x	Senator Donna Frett-Gregory heard in this transcript as: Donna A. Frett-Gregory

Bills and acts referred to

Matched by number against our own acts corpus. The number is what the recognition heard, so it may be wrong; where it resolved, the title is the one the Legislature gave the act.

Bill 35-0087	Act 8979 · December 18, 2024 · An Act appropriating \$2,930,870 from the Indirect Cost Fund in the fiscal year October 1, 2024, to September 30), 2025, for the operating expenses of the Office of Management and Budget, the Virgin Islands Division of Personnel, and the Virgin Islands Departments of Finance and Property and Procurement; amending title 3, Virgin Islands Code, chapter 27 regarding the retirement of certain government employees and the re-employment of government retirees: amending Act No, 8681 regarding the Sixth Constitutional Convention; amending title 23 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 5 regarding requirements for gun license applications; amending Act No. 8875 regarding the payment of prior year obligations o
Bill 35-0349	Act 8897 · An Act providing an appropriation from the St. Thomas Capital Improvement Fund to the Virgin Islands Department of Public Works for road repair and maintenance projects in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025 ---0
Bill 35-0351	Act 8954 · November 20, 2024 · An Act amending title 31 Virgin Islands Code, chapters 21and 23, sections 205, 23 1a, 232, 236, 236a, and 239 pertaining to the management of public property and procurement and sale of goods and services; amending title 19 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 34, section 778(2) pertaining to the Virgin Islands Cannabis Use Act; amending title 30 Virgin Islands Code, section 104 pertaining to the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority; amending Act Nos. 8899 and 8916 to provide supplemental appropriations: and for other related purposes
Bill 35-0352	Act 8900 · An Act providing an appropriation from the General Fund of the Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands for the operating expenses of the Public Services Commission for the fiscal year October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2025 ---0
Bill 35-0353	Act 8924 · October 16, 2024 · An Act to develop and produce an annual U.S. Virgin Islands Beer, Wine, and Spirits Festival; to repeal the maximum per acreage amount in leases of government owned land for agricultural purposes; appropriating \$200,000 to the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority to restore electrical service to the Bugby Hole and Spring Garden/Spring Gut communities in St. Croix; appropriating \$300,000 to the University of the Virgin Islands for UVI CELL to train the instructors of the Emergency Medical Services Education Program; amending title 17 Virgin Islands Code, section 86a regarding parent and students school participation; amending title 17 Virgin Islands Code, section 190dd regarding eligibili
Bill 35-0355	Act 8903 · An Act providing an appropriation from the Caribbean Basin Initiative Fund as a contribution to the General Fund of the Treasury of the Virgin Islands in the fiscal year October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025 ---0
Bill 35-0358	Act 8906 · An Act providing for a lump-sum appropriation from the Health Revolving Fund to the Virgin Islands Department of Health as a contribution to the General Fund of the Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands for the fiscal year October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025 ---0
Bill 35-0360	Act 8907 · An Act providing an appropriation to the Virgin Islands Taxicab Commission in the fiscal year October 1,2024, through September 30, 2025 ---0
Bill 35-0361	Act 8908 · An Act providing an appropriation from the Transportation Trust Fund as a contribution to the General Fund of the Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands for operating expenses for the Virgin Islands Bureau of Motor

	Vehicles and the Virgin Islands Department of Public Works in the fiscal year October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025 ---0
Bill 35-0027	Act 8938 · An Act honoring and commending Mr. Myron Corbett posthumously for his many contributions to the youth of the territory and renaming the gymnasium at the Charlotte Amalie High School · The Arthur · Gutu · Solomon and Myron · MC · Corbett Gymnasium · ---0
Bill 35-0380	Act 8920 · September 27, 2024 · An Act appropriating funds received from the settlement of The Government of the United States Virgin Islands v. Estate of Jeffrey E. Epstein, et al., Civil No. ST-2020-CV-00014 and the settlement agreement with Leon Black for various projects and initiatives to enhance community services, mental health resources, infrastructure, and economic development in the Virgin Islands, including the establishment of the Southern Trust Company Settlement Fund and the Survivors and Mental Health Healing Trust Fund
Act 8701	Act 8701 · An Act authorizing the Governor to utilize monies from public funds of the Virgin Islands to create working capital, to engage in a line of credit in the maximum amount of \$100,000,000 to provide for the disbursement of funds needed to advance disaster-related recovery projects that are reimbursable through federal flinding and other disaster-related projects and provide funding to advance payment of the \$45,000,000 towards the buyout of the infrastructure agreement between the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority and VITOL and the acquisition of the LPG facilities and to issue the Series 2023 Notes ---0
Act 8979	Act 8979 · December 18, 2024 · An Act appropriating \$2,930,870 from the Indirect Cost Fund in the fiscal year October 1, 2024, to September 30), 2025, for the operating expenses of the Office of Management and Budget, the Virgin Islands Division of Personnel, and the Virgin Islands Departments of Finance and Property and Procurement; amending title 3, Virgin Islands Code, chapter 27 regarding the retirement of certain government employees and the re-employment of government retirees: amending Act No. 8681 regarding the Sixth Constitutional Convention; amending title 23 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 5 regarding requirements for gun license applications; amending Act No. 8875 regarding the payment of prior year obligations o
Act 8875	Act 8875 · An Act appropriating the sum of \$2,111,507.10 from the General Fund of the Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands to the Department of Health for payment of services rendered by Pafford Medical Services to the Caribbean Kidney Center pant ee
Act 8897	Act 8897 · An Act providing an appropriation from the St. Thomas Capital Improvement Fund to the Virgin Islands Department of Public Works for road repair and maintenance projects in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025 ---0
Act 8954	Act 8954 · November 20, 2024 · An Act amending title 31 Virgin Islands Code, chapters 21and 23, sections 205, 23 1a, 232, 236, 236a, and 239 pertaining to the management of public property and procurement and sale of goods and services; amending title 19 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 34, section 778(2) pertaining to the Virgin Islands Cannabis Use Act; amending title 30 Virgin Islands Code, section 104 pertaining to the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority; amending Act Nos. 8899 and 8916 to provide supplemental appropriations: and for other related purposes
Act 8900	Act 8900 · An Act providing an appropriation from the General Fund of the Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands for the operating expenses of the Public Services Commission for the fiscal year October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2025 ---0
Act 8924	Act 8924 · October 16, 2024 · An Act to develop and produce an annual U.S. Virgin Islands Beer, Wine, and Spirits Festival; to repeal the maximum per acreage amount in leases of government owned land for agricultural purposes; appropriating \$200,000 to the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority to restore electrical service to the Bugby Hole and Spring Garden/Spring Gut communities in St. Croix; appropriating \$300,000 to the University of the Virgin Islands for UVI CELL to train the instructors of the Emergency Medical Services Education Program; amending title 17 Virgin Islands Code, section 86a regarding parent and students school participation; amending title 17 Virgin Islands Code, section 190dd regarding eligibili
Act 8903	Act 8903 · An Act providing an appropriation from the Caribbean Basin Initiative Fund as a contribution to the General Fund of the Treasury of the Virgin Islands in the fiscal year October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025 ---0
Act 8906	Act 8906 · An Act providing for a lump-sum appropriation from the Health Revolving Fund to the Virgin Islands Department of Health as a contribution to the General Fund of the Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands for the fiscal year October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025 ---0
Act 8907	Act 8907 · An Act providing an appropriation to the Virgin Islands Taxicab Commission in the fiscal year October 1,2024, through September 30, 2025 ---0
Act 8908	Act 8908 · An Act providing an appropriation from the Transportation Trust Fund as a contribution to the General Fund of the Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands for operating expenses for the Virgin Islands Bureau of Motor Vehicles and the Virgin Islands Department of Public Works in the fiscal year October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025 ---0
Act 8938	Act 8938 · An Act honoring and commending Mr. Myron Corbett posthumously for his many contributions to the youth of the territory and renaming the gymnasium at the Charlotte Amalie High School · The Arthur · Gutu · Solomon and Myron · MC · Corbett Gymnasium · ---0
Act 8920	Act 8920 · September 27, 2024 · An Act appropriating funds received from the settlement of The Government of the United States Virgin Islands v. Estate of Jeffrey E. Epstein, et al., Civil No. ST-2020-CV-00014 and the settlement agreement with Leon Black for various projects and initiatives to enhance community services, mental health resources, infrastructure, and economic development in the Virgin Islands, including the establishment of the Southern Trust

Company Settlement Fund and the Survivors and Mental Health Healing Trust Fund

Referred to but not found in our acts corpus: Bill 35-0272, Bill 35-0341, Bill 35-0343, Bill 35-0344, Bill 35-0346, Bill 34-0354, Bill 35-0363, Bill 35-0364, Bill 35-0365, Bill 35-0366, Bill 35-0373, Bill 35-0375, Bill 35-0376, Bill 35-0377, Bill 35-0378, Bill 35-0381, Bill 35-0342, Bill 35-0345, Bill 35-0347, Bill 35-0348, Bill 35-0354, Bill 35-0356, Bill 35-0357, Bill 35-0362