

BILL NO. 35-0221**Thirty-Fifth Legislature of the Virgin Islands****December 19, 2023**

An Act amending title 3 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 18, subchapter I removing the Department of Sports, Parks, and Recreation's responsibility for housing activities and eliminating inapplicable provisions relating to housing matters of the former Department of Housing, Parks and Recreation and other related purposes

PROPOSED BY: Senators Javan E. James, Sr., and Donna A. Frett-Gregory

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:

SECTION 1. Title 3 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 18, subchapter I, section 302 is amended in the following instances:

(1) In section 302:

(a) In the first sentence, strike “public housing and insert “sports”;

(b) In paragraph (1), strike both occurrences of “housing” and insert “sporting, recreational, and park”, strike “including renewal problems, and strike “loans”;

(c) In paragraph (2), strike “housing” and insert “sporting, recreational, and park”;

(d) In paragraph (3), strike “housing and renewal and insert “sporting, recreational, and park”;

(e) In paragraph (11), strike the phrase “in housing projects”: and

(f) Strike paragraphs (4), (5), (12), (13), (14), (15), (16), (18), and (20) in their entirety and renumber the remaining paragraphs accordingly.

(2) In section 303, subsection (a):

(a) After “pertaining to” strike “housing,” and insert “sports”; and

(b) Strike the phrase “; provided, however, that the Virgin Islands Housing Authority shall continue as the “public housing agency” and “local public agency” as designated by Title 29, section 31, VIC, to the extent necessary to comply with applicable federal law”.

SECTION 2. Sections 304, 305 and 306 are repealed.

BILL SUMMARY

The bill amends title 3 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 18, subchapter I by eliminating residual provisions in the Code relating to the Department of Sports, Parks, and Recreation’s (“Department”) responsibility for housing activities. Pursuant to Act 6973, the responsibilities and duties of the Department of Housing Parks, and Recreation relating to housing under title 3 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 18, were transferred in total to the Virgin Islands Housing Finance Authority established under title 21 V.I.C., chapter 2, section 103. The bill repeals 3 V.I.C. §§ 304-305 which relate to housing activities. The bill also amends 3 V.I.C. § 302 by striking provisions relating to housing activities and by expanding the powers and duties of the Department relating to sports.

BR23-0419/ February 27, 2023/ Revised March 6, 2023/PFA