



36th Legislature of the United States Virgin Islands Committee on Education and Workforce Development



Agenda

Wednesday, October 22, 2025

9:00 AM

Earle B. Ottley Legislative Hall, Capitol Building, St. Thomas

MEMBERS

Senator Kurt A. Violet

Chairman

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Senator Avery L. Lewis

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Senator Marise C. James

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Senator Franklin D. Johnson

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Senator Carla Joseph

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The Committee will consider proposed legislation.

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

III. Opening Remarks

IV. Reading of the agenda

V. Consideration of proposed legislation

Bill No. 36-0067 An Act amending title 17 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 5 by adding a section 41j requiring the Pledge of Allegiance and the Virgin Islands Motto to be recited at the beginning of each school day in public schools, but additionally provides that students may opt out of the recitation

Sponsor: The Honorable Alma Francis Heyliger

Invited Testifier(s):

- Kyza A. Callwood, PhD
Chairperson
Virgin Islands Board of Education
- Honorable Dionne Wells-Hedrington, Ed.D.
Commissioner
Virgin Islands Department of Education
- Merlene Jones, Ed.D.
Principal, Lockhart K-8 School
Virgin Islands Department of Education

Bill No. 36-0069 An Act amending title 17 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 9, subchapter 1, section 82, subsection (a) by changing the age a child begins kindergarten from five years of age to four years of age

Sponsor: The Honorable Alma Francis Heyliger

Invited Testifier(s):

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Chairperson
Virgin Islands Board of Education
- Honorable Dionne Wells-Hedrington, Ed.D.
Commissioner
Virgin Islands Department of Education
- Merlene Jones, Ed.D.
Principal, Lockhart K-8 School
Virgin Islands Department of Education
- Honorable Averil George
Commissioner
Virgin Islands Department of Human Services
- Honorable Justa E. Encarnacion
Commissioner
Virgin Islands Department of Health

Bill No. 36-0080 An Act amending title 17 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 5 mandating a daily morning exercise routine for students in all public schools in the Virgin Islands

Sponsor: The Honorable Alma Francis Heyliger

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Virgin Islands Board of Education
- Honorable Dionne Wells-Hedrington, Ed.D.
Commissioner
Virgin Islands Department of Education
- Merlene Jones, Ed.D.
Principal, Lockhart K-8 School
Virgin Islands Department of Education
- Honorable Justa E. Encarnacion
Commissioner
Virgin Islands Department of Health
- Brian Young, MD, FAAP
Pediatrician

Partners 4 Kids

- Vincent Roberts
Commissioner Designee
Virgin Islands Department of Sports Parks and Recreation

VI. Closing Remarks

VII. Adjournment