

COMMITTEE ON BUDGET, APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCE

09/26/2024-REPORTED OUT TO THE FLOOR

09/26/2024-REPORTED OUT TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JUDICIARY W/CLOSED  
RULE

**BILL NO.     35-0378**

**Thirty-Fifth Legislature of the Virgin Islands**

**September 26, 2024**

An Act appropriating funds for the adoption of various portions of the Virgin Islands  
Agricultural Plan for fiscal year ending September 30, 2025

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**PROPOSED BY:**   Senators Novelle E. Francis, Jr., Donna A. Frett-Gregory,  
                          Angel L. Bolques, Jr., Marvin A. Blyden and Diane T. Capehart

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*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:*

**SECTION 1.** The sum of \$250,000 is appropriated from General Fund of the Treasury  
of the Government of the Virgin Islands in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, to the  
Agriculture Business Center within the Small Business Development Center for operating  
expenses.

**SECTION 2.** The sum of \$250,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund of the  
Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025,  
to the University of the Virgin Islands Office of Sponsored Programs for obtaining major  
federal grants to address water, irrigation, or infrastructure and other agriculture needs for the  
Virgin Islands.

**SECTION 3.** The sum of \$383,000 is appropriated from the General Fund of the  
Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025,  
to the University of the Virgin Islands' Office of Sponsored Program.

**SECTION 4.** The sum of \$150,000 is appropriated from the General Fund of the Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, to the University of the Virgin Islands for the Eastern Caribbean Center for data collection.

**SECTION 5.** The sum of \$500,000.00 is appropriated from the General Fund of the Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, to the Virgin Islands Economic Development Authority to establish a Public-Private Investment Fund and a Farmer's Grant Matching Fund in coordination with the Local Food and Farm Advisory Committee.

**SECTION 6.** The sum of \$274,500.00 is appropriated from the General Fund of the Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, to the University of the Virgin Islands for the operations of the Local Food and Farm Advisory Committee to include the operations of the Local Food and Farm Advisory Committee Operations, the Food Symbol Development and Marketing, Data Collection and Analysis, and to create a short-term and long-term plan to address critical water and infrastructure needs, and develop Organic agriculture in conjunction with the Virgin Islands Department of Agriculture.

## BILL SUMMARY

This bill appropriates the funds necessary for the adoption of various portions of the Virgin Islands Agricultural Plan.

BR24-1340/BUDGET/September 26, 2024