

AMENDING THE ORGANIC ACT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS  
OF THE UNITED STATES, APPROVED JUNE 22, 1936

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DECEMBER 10, 1941.—Ordered to be printed

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Mr. TYDINGS, from the Committee on Territories and Insular Affairs,  
submitted the following

## REPORT

[To accompany S. 2049]

The Committee on Territories and Insular Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2049) to amend the Organic Act of the Virgin Islands of the United States, approved June 22, 1936, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

Under section 20 of the Organic Act, in its present form, the Governor of the Virgin Islands, or his representative, is required to attend meetings of the local legislative bodies. This measure would make attendance by the Governor or his representative at such sessions permissive rather than mandatory.

The letter from the Acting Secretary of the Interior, addressed to the chairman of the Senate Committee on Territories and Insular Affairs, approving passage of this measure, is incorporated herein and becomes a part of this report.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
Washington, November 27, 1941.

HON. MILLARD E. TYDINGS,  
Chairman, Committee on Territories and Insular Affairs,  
United States Senate.

MY DEAR SENATOR TYDINGS: I have received your letter of November 15, requesting a report on S. 2049, a bill to amend the Organic Act of the Virgin Islands of the United States, approved June 22, 1936.

Under section 20 of the Organic Act in its present form, the Governor of the Virgin Islands or his representative is required to attend meetings of the local legislative bodies. This requirement is unique; to my knowledge, in no other State, Territory, or possession of the United States is it mandatory for the Executive or his deputy to attend legislative sessions. It is undesirable in that it frequently necessitates hasty decisions and has the effect of committing the Governor on pending legislation as to the merits of which he has not had an opportunity to give adequate consideration. Moreover, it tends to break down the

separation of the Executive and legislative branches of the Virgin Islands Government and the system of checks and balances between those branches, which are essential aspects of our constitutional form of government.

S. 2049 would make attendance by the Governor or his representative at legislative sessions permissive rather than mandatory. I approve of the bill and recommend that it receive the favorable consideration of your committee.

The Director of the Bureau of the Budget has advised that there would be no objection to the submission of this report.

Sincerely yours,

E. K. BURLEW,  
*Acting Secretary of the Interior.*

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