

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2841

To amend the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands to provide for greater fiscal autonomy consistent with other United States jurisdictions, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 13, 1999

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN (for herself, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To amend the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands to provide for greater fiscal autonomy consistent with other United States jurisdictions, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. GREATER FISCAL AUTONOMY.**

4 (a) ISSUANCE.—Section 8(b)(ii)(A) of the Revised
5 Organic Act of the Virgin Islands (48 U.S.C.
6 1574(b)(ii)(A)) is amended—

7 (1) in the first sentence, by inserting after
8 “other evidence of indebtedness” the following: “, in-

1 cluding but not limited to notes in anticipation of
 2 the collection of taxes or revenues, ”;

3 (2) by striking “to construct, improve, extend”
 4 and all that follows through “*Provided*, That no pub-
 5 lic” and inserting “for any public purpose authorized
 6 by the legislature: *Provided*, That no such”; and

7 (3) by striking “and payable semiannually. All
 8 such bonds shall be sold for not less than the prin-
 9 cipal amount thereof plus accrued interest”

10 (b) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS AND CONFORMING
 11 AMENDMENTS.—

12 (1) REPEAL.—Section 8(b)(ii)(B) of the Re-
 13 vised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands (48 U.S.C.
 14 1574(b)(ii)(B)) is repealed.

15 (2) REDESIGNATION.—Section 8(b)(ii)(C) of
 16 the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands (48
 17 U.S.C. 1574(b)(ii)(C)) is redesignated as section
 18 8(b)(ii)(B).

19 (3) REDUNDANT PROVISION.—Section 1 of
 20 Public Law 94–392 (90 Stat. 1193) is amended by
 21 striking subsection (d).

22 **SEC. 2. AGREEMENT.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Interior is
 24 authorized to enter into an agreement with the Governor
 25 of the Virgin Islands establishing mutually agreed finan-

1 cial accountability and performance standards for the fis-
 2 cal operations of the Government of the Virgin Islands.

3 (b) TRANSMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Upon ratification
 4 of the agreement authorized in subsection (a) by both par-
 5 ties, the Secretary shall forward a copy of the agreement
 6 to the Committee on Resources in the House of Represent-
 7 atives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Re-
 8 sources in the Senate.

9 **SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATES.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided by subsection
 11 (b), the amendments made by section 1 shall apply to
 12 those instruments of indebtedness issued by the Govern-
 13 ment of the Virgin Islands after the date of the enactment
 14 of this Act.

15 (b) EFFECT OF FAILURE TO REACH AGREEMENT.—
 16 If the agreement authorized in section 2(a) is not ratified
 17 by both parties on or before December 31, 1999, the
 18 amendments made by section 1—

19 (A) shall not apply to instruments of indebted-
 20 ness issued by the Government of the Virgin Islands
 21 on or after December 31, 1999; and

22 (B) shall continue to apply to those instruments
 23 of indebtedness issued by the Government of the

- 1 Virgin Islands after the date of the enactment of
- 2 this Act and before December 31, 1999.

