



Legislative Session

Legislature USVI

June 27, 2025 · 1.1 hours · gov

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0:00:00 wrong with that? Why can't this body in conjunction with the administration work together to cut the fluff, the waste out of the budget, create ideas as to how we could collect the 400 million in outstanding taxes on the street, reduce overtime. Where are the austerity measures for the executive branch? You're making \$90,000, you're driving a car 24-7 on weekends, but the \$27,000 employee can't get a raise. And then we are called irresponsible. The body stood up today. The body said, no masks. We are going to dictate how this government is going to proceed and move forward. And nobody needs to be sorry for that. The legislature is giving the ability to control the purse strings, not the next way around. And we have to control the purse string. The \$33 million that was spent in Epstein funds that we don't know what it was spent for could have covered every single raise that we have here today. The \$100 million given to WAPA and the rates remain the same could have covered everything. We don't know what happened to the \$38 million in WAPA funds that they say obligated in December. We still can't get a report. We cannot allow them to have this body looking like we are second fiddle. We don't know what we're doing. The numbers are there. How can you put out that you don't have a fiscal analysis when you have departments that run fiscal analysis? Let's move forward responsibly. \$8,000 is nothing. We have a responsibility to find those monies. That is our job, along with the OMB director, the finance commissioner, the BR, who just get a \$30,000 raise. Our job is to protect the custodians, the laborers, the food service workers, and we did it today. Congratulations, colleagues.

0:02:01 Thank you very much Senator Card VLA. Senator Avery Lewis. I almost said Avery Johnson, right? Senator Avery Lewis. It's been a long day, gentlemen. You're recognized for your three minutes. Congratulations, colleagues. Thank you. Thank you very much. Senator Avery Lewis. I almost said Avery Johnson, right? Senator Avery Lewis. It's been a long day, gentlemen. You're recognized for your three minutes. Three minutes. Well, good afternoon. Good afternoon, colleagues. Good afternoon, people of the Virgin Islands. It's solely a long day and an interesting day and a long day. Because as you go along, you learn things you never knew. And engaging with colleagues and, you know, you find out flip side to things and, you know, institutional knowledge about different things. As it pertains to Bill 360043, I do

support this. This is increasing the penalties for violation of sanitation laws. But while I do support this, I have to say to my colleagues here, on the flip side of this, we need to start bringing pressure now. By imposing fines and so forth for people that violate the laws. We have to try to bring our own government into compliance. For months now, months, I've been fighting with waste management, about sewage running the streets. Not just in St. Damos, in the territory. We have to correct these things. So while I find in businesses and individuals for doing wrong, we have to live up to our end, at a bargain.

0:04:13 You know, no more excuses. I mean, every time they call, we try to accommodate and give them what they're looking for. As I talk about social workers, social workers, social workers, wholeheartedly they have me. Anyone that's committed, that's putting forward their life and their service to helping individuals, you have me wholeheartedly. Expungement, I join now with a sponsor. Thank you for bringing that. And I know of individuals that had hard times, hardships. I don't know if you all know, sometimes you see them going around with papers, going in businesses. Could you sign this here to say what's here today? Please look in employment.

0:05:03 And a lot of times it's a hard time when they say, "This one look good. Well, I'll go in jail." "Well, I'm going to call you tomorrow." And that call never comes. So discrimination, for a very long time, is still prevalent. As it pertains to the disbursement of funds to the school principals, I think no one is a no-brainer. Being in a classroom, I know how it is, with teachers having and principals having to go in their pockets. And sometimes you don't get reimbursed. So this gives them the leverage where they could do certain things. And, you know, and it's all about our students. Nobody went into education for money.

0:05:44 It's for the love of the children. I could tell you that. So if you're planning a career or you're in the career of education and you think you're going to get rich, quit. So you ain't going to never get rich in education. But they seemingly, if you get in politics, you might get up there. But anyhow, moving on. Well, I don't know which body does say in politics. Now, Mr. President, if I may wrap up. Yes, you may.

0:06:21 Right? And I ain't going to belabor this issue anymore because at the appropriate time, I'm going to vote accordingly. Vote my conscience and vote on what's right for the people of the Virgin Islands. Thank you, Mr. President. Sound good, Mr. President. Thank you very much, Senator Avery Lewis. Senator Kenneth Gittens, you're recognized for your three minutes. Thank you, Mr. President. And good afternoon to all once again.

0:06:51 Well said, Mr. Majority Leader. And good solidarity standing colleagues. Let's stand together like that all the time on behalf of the people we serve. Colleagues, I rise in support of all five measures in this block, which collectively reflects our continued efforts to enhance justice, education, public safety, public health, and professional standards across the territory. These bills cover a wide range of important issues from sanitation violations, which are essential to maintaining public health and community well-being, to the regulation of the social work profession through the establishment of the Virgin Islands Board of Social Workers. This board will play a key role in ensuring that those serving our most vulnerable populations are credentialed properly and held to the professional standards that we expect. Colleagues, there's an issue with residents while we're addressing sanitation violations.

0:08:06 There's an issue with residents being charged a wastewater user fee that are not connected to the public system. As long as you reside within 60 feet of the sewer system, you're being assessed a user fee. I was bringing an amendment today to adjust that, but I want the public to know that we will bring that matter to the Committee of Jurisdiction and have a proper conversation on it, as it is not fair for those who are not connected to the system to be assessed the same amount of monies as someone who is directly utilizing the system. One minute.

0:08:51 I'm also proud to support the bill that ensures the automatic expungement. And I use the word "automatic" loosely. I don't like "automatic." But I do support the measure to expunge those arrest records and complaints when an individual has been acquitted by the courts. This is a matter of fairness, again, and a matter of civil rights. One that affirms a principle that a not guilty verdict should not carry a lasting stigma. 30 seconds. And we know that that happens. Mr. President, I'll ask you for a little leniency ahead of time.

0:09:29 Also, the measure that aligns the disbursement and spending limitations of funds allotted to public schools from the Education Initiative Fund, ensuring clarity, excuse me, and accountability in how these critical dollars are spent will definitely benefit our students, our educators, and the broader educational system. Mr. President, the inmates are running the asylum, they say. You know, let's continue to exercise our legislative authority colleagues. I remind you all that on or about June 3rd, I did request the NOPERS of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor through committee process, and we never got those NOPERS. And as I asked for it as recent as yesterday, we were told it wasn't given to us in writing, when they promised to deliver it by the end of the business day that day. So colleagues, I am poised that at the appropriate time, I will be calling for a motion to subpoena those documents, because as has been stated by several colleagues, we need to

0 : 20 : 13	Committee stands in recess for three minutes. [1 such phrases repeated 43 times · standby audio before the proceeding, transcribed by the recogniser as speech]
0 : 20 : 56	Committee stands in recess for three minutes. [1 such phrases repeated 27 times · standby audio before the proceeding, transcribed by the recogniser as speech]
0 : 21 : 23	Committee stands in recess for three minutes. [1 such phrases repeated 18 times · standby audio before the proceeding, transcribed by the recogniser as speech]
0 : 21 : 49	Committee stands in recess for three minutes. Committee stands in recess for three minutes. Committee stands in recess for three minutes. Committee stands in recess for three minutes. Committee stands in recess for three minutes. Committee stands in recess for three minutes. Committee stands in recess for three minutes. Committee stands in recess in recess for three minutes. - Giddens, you're recognized for your motion. - I moved to restate, I did say July 3rd, when it should have been. The Wednesday is July 2nd, so I'll restate. Mr. President and colleagues, I moved to waive rule 308 of the rules of the 36th legislature of the Virgin Islands to subpoena the director of the Division of Personnel, Ms. Cindy Richardson, to produce the current and any adjustment NOPAs within the next 30 days of the governor, lieutenant governor, and any executive branch leadership whose compensation has been increased as a result of the recommendations of the Public Employees' Compensation Commission to the office of the Senate President no later than noon, Wednesday, July 2nd, 2025, ISO move.
0 : 23 : 02	- Properly moved by Senator Kenner-Gittin, seconded by Senator Ray Fonseca, Senator Carla Joseph, Senator Dwayne DeGraff, hearing no objection, Senator Clifford-Joseph, okay. Not Senator Clifford-Joseph, Senator Carla Joseph, hearing no objections. So ordered. Colleagues, we've exhausted our debate time. We will now ask you, Madam Clerk, to please call up the first item in this block.
0 : 23 : 43	- Bill number 36.0043, an act amending Title 19, Virgin Islands Code, part six, chapter 53, sub-chapter four, section 1481, by Increasing the Penalties for Violation of Sanitation Laws. - Thank you very much. Any amendments? Madam Clerk, please proceed with the roll call. Senator Marvin E. Blyden, yeah.
0 : 24 : 24	Senator Marvin E. Blyden, yeah. Senator Marvin E. Blyden, yeah. Senator Angela Boulkas, yeah. Senator Boulkas, yeah. Senator Dwayne DeGraff, yeah. Senator Dwayne DeGraff, yeah. Senator Ray Fonseca, yeah. Senator Fonseca, yeah. Senator Fonseca, yeah. Senator Novel E. Francis Jr., yeah. Senator Francis Jr., yeah. Senator Alma Francis Heiliger, yeah. Senator Francis Heiliger, yeah. Senator Hubert L. Frederick, yeah. Senator Frederick, yeah. Senator Kenneth L. Gettins, yeah. Senator Kenneth L. Gettins, yeah. Senator Kenneth L. Gettins, yeah. Senator Dwayne DeGraff, yeah. Senator Ray Fonseca, yeah. Senator Ray Fonseca, yeah. Senator Fonseca, yeah. Senator Fonseca, yeah. Senator Fonseca, yeah. Senator Fonseca, yeah. Senator Fonseca, yeah. Senator Novel E. Francis, yeah.
0 : 24 : 59	Senator Fonseca, yeah. Senator Frederick, yeah. Senator Kenneth L. Gettins, yeah. Senator Gettins, yeah. Senator Maurice C. James, yes. Senator James, yeah. Senator Franklin D. Johnson, yes. Senator Johnson, yeah. Senator Carla J. Joseph, yes. Senator Joseph, yes. Senator Joseph, yes. Senator Clifford A. Joseph, senior.
0 : 25 : 34	Senator Joseph, senior, yes. Senator Joseph, senior, yes. Senator Avery L. Lewis. Senator Lewis. Senator Lewis. Yes, yes, yes. Senator Lewis, yes. Senator Lewis, yes. Senator Milton E. Potter. Senator Potter, yes. Senator Potter, yes. Senator Carter, yes. Senator Carter, yes. Senator Carter, yes. Senator VLA, yes. Senator VLA, yes. Senator VLA, yes. Mr. President, you have 15 years. Thank you so very much, Madam Clerk. Colleagues, bill number 36-0043, an act amending title 19, Virgin Analyst Code, part 6, chapter 53, subchapter 4, section 1481, by increasing the penalties for violation of sanitation laws, has been favorably voted upon by this body and will be forwarded to the Governor for final consideration and action. Madam Clerk, can you please call up the next item in the block.
0 : 26 : 32	Bill number 36-0050, an act repealing and reenacting with amendments, title 27, Virgin Islands Code, chapter 20, relating to the regulation of the profession of social work and social workers. Can you move forward with the rule call please, Madam Chair, Madam Clerk. No amendments? No amendments? Okay, Madam Clerk, can you please proceed with the roll call? No amendments? No amendments? Okay, Madam Clerk, can you please proceed with the roll call? No amendments? No amendments? Okay, Madam Clerk, can you please proceed with the roll call? Senator Marvin E. Blighen? Senator Blighen? Yes. Senator Blighen? Yes. Senator Blighen? Yes. Senator Blighen? Yes. Senator Blighen? Yes. Senator Blighen? Yes.
0 : 27 : 15	Senator Blighen? Yes. [2 such phrases repeated 28 times · standby audio before the proceeding, transcribed by the recogniser as speech]

0 : 27 : 43	Yes. Senator Blighen? Yes. Senator Blighen? Yes. Senator Blighen? Yes. Senator Blighen? Yes. Senator Blighen? Yes. Senator Blighen? Yes. Senator Blighen? Yes. Senator Francis Heidegger? Yes. Senator Hubert L. Frederick? Yes. Senator Frederick? Yes. Senator Frederick? Yes. Senator Frederick? Yes. Senator Kenneth L. Gittins? Yes. Senator Gittins? Yes.
0 : 28 : 13	Sensor Gittins? Yes. Senator Morris C. James? Yes. Senator James? Yes. Senator Franklin D. Johnson? Yes. Senator Johnson? Yes. Senator Karla J. Joseph? Yes. Senator Joseph? Yes. Senator Joseph? Yes. Senator Clifford A. Joseph Senior? Yes. Senator Joseph Senior? Yes. Senator Joseph Senior? Yes. Senator Avery L. Lewis? Yes. Senator Lewis? Yes. Senator Lewis? Yes. Senator Lewis? Yes.
0 : 28 : 43	Sensor Milton E. Potter? Yes. Senator Potter? Yes. Senator Potter? Yes. Senator Kurt A. VLA? Yes. Senator VLA? Yes. Mr. President, we have 15 years. Thank you very much, Madam Clerk. Colleagues Bill Number 36-0050, an act repealing and reenacting with amendments, Title 27, Virgin Islands Code, Chapter 20, relating to the regulation of the profession of social work and social workers, which has been favorably voted upon by this body and will be forwarded to the Governor for further consideration and action. So, Madam Clerk, can you please call up the next item in the block?
0 : 29 : 31	Bill Number 36-0051, an act amending Title 27, Virgin Islands Code, Chapter 20, by establishing the Virgin Islands Board of Social Work Licensure. Madam Clerk, can we please have a roll call? Madam Clerk, can we please have a roll call? Madam Clerk, can we please have a roll call? Madam Clerk, can we please have a roll call? Madam Clerk, can we please have a roll call? Madam Clerk, can we please have a roll call? Madam Clerk, can we please have a roll call? Madam Clerk, can we please have a roll call? Madam Clerk, can we please have a roll call? Madam Clerk, can we please have a roll call? Madam Clerk, can we please have a roll call? Madam Clerk, can we please have a roll call? Madam Clerk, can we please have a roll call? Madam Clerk, can we please have a roll call? Senator Marvin, can we please have a roll call? Senator Marvin, can we have a roll call? Senator Blight, can we have a roll call?
0 : 30 : 14	Madam Clerk, can we please have a roll call? [1 such phrases repeated 30 times · standby audio before the proceeding, transcribed by the recogniser as speech]
0 : 30 : 44	Madam Clerk, can we please have a roll call? [1 such phrases repeated 28 times · standby audio before the proceeding, transcribed by the recogniser as speech]
0 : 31 : 13	Madam Clerk, can we please have a roll call? Madam Clerk, can we have a roll call? [2 such phrases repeated 34 times · standby audio before the proceeding, transcribed by the recogniser as speech]
0 : 31 : 49	Madam Clerk, can we have a roll call? [1 such phrases repeated 27 times · standby audio before the proceeding, transcribed by the recogniser as speech]
0 : 32 : 16	Madam Clerk, can we have a roll call? A roll call? [2 such phrases repeated 40 times · standby audio before the proceeding, transcribed by the recogniser as speech]
0 : 33 : 22	Madam Clerk, can we have a roll call? [1 such phrases repeated 43 times · standby audio before the proceeding, transcribed by the recogniser as speech]
0 : 34 : 05	Madam Clerk, can we have a roll call? [1 such phrases repeated 32 times · standby audio before the proceeding, transcribed by the recogniser as speech]
0 : 34 : 38	Madam Clerk, can we have a roll call? If we have a roll call? [2 such phrases repeated 33 times · standby audio before the proceeding, transcribed by the recogniser as speech]
0 : 35 : 13	Madam Clerk, can we have a roll call? Madam Clerk, can we have a roll call? Madam Clerk, can we have a roll call? Madam Clerk, can we have a roll call? Madam Clerk, can we have a roll call? Madam Clerk, can we have a roll call? Madam Clerk, can we have a roll call? Madam Clerk, can we have a roll call? Madam Clerk, can we have a roll call? Madam Clerk, can we have a roll call? And will be forwarded to the Governor for further consideration and action. Madam Clerk, can you please read the next item in this block? Bill number 36-0064, an act amending Title 33, Virgin Islands Code, Chapter 111, Section 3100I, aligning the disbursement and spending limitations of funds allotted to public schools from the Education Initiative Fund with the realities of academic planning, ensuring that funds are used to maximize student success.
0 : 36 : 01	Thank you very much. Senator Novali-Francis, you're recognized for your amendment. Thank you, Mr. President, Mr. President and colleagues. I offer amendment number 36-394, amendment to bill number 36-0064, being offered by Yoast Trulli, Senator Novali-Francis, Jr. Bill number 36 is blank. Well, bill number 36-0064 is amended by adding the following appropriately numbered section. Section blank. The number of 44,000 is appropriated in fiscal year ending September 38, 2025, from the Territorial Scholarship Fund to the Treasury of the Government to the Virgin Islands, Board of Education for the Administration of the Caroline Felicia Adams Aviation Scholarship. I so move.

- 0:36:54 Properly moved by Senator Novali-Francis, Jr., seconded by Senator Marvin Blyden, Carla Joseph, Maurice James, Clifford Joseph, Avery Lewis, Dwayne DeGraff, hearing no objections. So ordered. Senator Francis, please proceed with your amendment. Thank you very much, Mr. President, Mr. President and colleagues. I offer amendment number 36-132, an amendment to bill 36-0064. Bill number 36-0064 is amended by adding the appropriate number section.
- 0:37:39 I read section blank, section 7-3 of Act 59-54. 89-54, I'm sorry, is amended by striking territorial park system and inserting division of libraries, archives, and museum. I so move. Properly moved by Senator Novali-Francis, seconded by Senator Carla Joseph, Senator Hubert Frederick, Senator Duane DeGraff, Senator Maurice James, Senator Clifford Joseph, Senator Marvin Blyden, hearing no objections. So ordered. Amendment. Senator Novali-Francis, Jr., you may proceed with your amendment.
- 0:38:17 Thank you very much, Mr. President, Mr. President and colleagues. I offer amendment number 36-394 to bill number 36-0064, being offered by yours truly, Senator Novali-Francis, Jr. Bill number 36-0064 is amended by adding the following appropriately numbered section. Section blank, Title 27, Virgin Islands Code, Chapter 16 is amended as follows. A, Section 433, Paragraph 10 is amended by striking appraisal, qualification board, and inserting... Senator Giddens, you're recognized for your motion. Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President. Mr. President, I move to waive the reading of amendment number 394 and just have the sponsor the bill just explain what the motion is. I so move.
- 0:39:09 The committee will stand in recess. I'm in a motion. I'm in a motion. I'm in a motion. I'm in a motion. OK. Proceed with the motion. OK. Properly moved by Senator Gittens, seconded by Senator Blyden, Senator Maurice James. No objections. Carry no objections. So ordered. Committee will stand in recess for? I saw move. OK.
- 0:39:37 Second. Properly moved by Senator Norman Francis, seconded by Senator Carla Joseph and Senator DeGraff and Senator Hubert Fredericks. Hearing no objections. Explain and then we take the break. Sword. Sorry. No, you're going to a break. You gotta go to a break. Go to a break. We will stand in recess for five minutes. No, no, no, no, no.
- 0:40:37 ¶¶¶ Session is back on the record. Senator Francis. Senator Francis. Senator Francis. You're recognized. Francis. Mike. Go ahead. Yeah, they got it, they got it. Mike, check one, two. Mr. President, for the purpose of that last amendment, that is, in fact, amendment number 36, that's 398. And not 394. And not 394. Again, amendment number 36, that's 398, and not 394. Thank you very much, Senator Francis. Let the record reflect that the waiving of the reading has been moved. For 398. For 398.
- 0:43:55 ¶¶ Session is back on the record. Senator Francis. Senator Francis. Senator Francis. You're recognized. Francis. Mike. Go ahead. Yeah, they got it, they got it. Mike, check one, two. Mr. President, for the purpose of that last amendment, that is, in fact, amendment number 36, that's 398. And not 394. And not 394. Again, amendment number 36, that's 398, and not 394. Thank you very much, Senator Francis. Let the record reflect that the waiving of the reading has been moved. For 398. For 398.
- 0:44:34 For 398. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. An explanation of the bill, real quickly, this amendment would authorize the real estate appraisal board to adopt an alternative pathway to aspiring appraisers to gain practical experience known as practical applications of real estate appraisal. This amendment is offered at the request of the DLCA, Department of License and Consumer Affairs, which is seeking to build a pool of appraisers in the territory. Students will learn in a virtual environment, combining appraisal theory, methodology, in-world, real-world simulations using a range of online and virtual realities technologies as computer-based learning, virtual assistant, and virtual reality training. Thank you very much, thank you very much, thank you very much, thank you very much, Senator Francis. Francis, do we have an amendment? Senator Avery-Lewis, you're recognized for your amendment.
- 0:45:39 Thank you. Yeah, yeah, yeah, he was just doing an explanation. Yeah, he did so often be changed. The committee will stand and recess for two minutes. Thank you very much.
- 0:46:17 Thank you very much. Thank you very much. Thank you very much. Thank you very much. Thank you very much. Thank you very much. Thank you very much. The committee is back. The session is back on the record. Senator Lewis, you're recognized for your amendment.
- 0:47:25 Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, I move, I offer amendment number 36.454 to bill number 36.064 as it reads as follows. Bill number 36.064 is amended by adding the following appropriately numbered section, section blank. A. The sum of \$296,700 is appropriated in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, from the St. Thomas Street Lighting Account of the District Street Lighting Fund of the Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands, established under Title 33 Virgin Islands Code, Section 3002A to the Virgin Island Water and Power Authority, WAPA, for the purchase and installation of street lighting in St. Thomas along the route from the University of the Virgin Islands. The appropriation must be allocated as follows. One, \$203,200 for the purchase of materials.
- 0:48:16 Two, \$42,500 for the purchase of equipment. Three, \$51,000 for labour costs. The funds appropriated under Section A remain available until expended. Section blank, no later than 90 days after the installation of the street lighting, the Executive Director of WAPA shall submit a written report to the Legislature of the Virgin Islands, identifying the specific locations along the route where the street lighting is. \$203,200 for the purchase of materials, \$203,200 for the

[illegible]

0:48:57 \$203,200 for the purchase of equipment. [1 such phrases repeated 46 times · standby audio before the proceeding, transcribed by the recogniser as speech]

0:49:42 \$203,200 for the purchase of equipment. [1 such phrases repeated 31 times · standby audio before the proceeding, transcribed by the recogniser as speech]

0:50:15 \$203,200 for the purchase of equipment. [1 such phrases repeated 38 times · standby audio before the proceeding, transcribed by the recogniser as speech]

0:50:53 \$203,200 for the purchase of equipment. [1 such phrases repeated 34 times · standby audio before the proceeding, transcribed by the recogniser as speech]

00:51:27 \$203,200 for the purchase of equipment. [1 such phrases repeated 28 times · standby audio before the proceeding, transcribed by the recogniser as speech]

0:51:55 \$203,200 for the purchase of equipment. [1 such phrases repeated 36 times · standby audio before the proceeding, transcribed by the recogniser as speech]

00:52:31 \$203,200 for the purchase of equipment. [1 such phrases repeated 35 times · standby audio before the proceeding, transcribed by the recogniser as speech]

00:53:06 \$203,200 for the purchase of equipment. [1 such phrases repeated 29 times · standby audio before the proceeding, transcribed by the recogniser as speech]

0:53:35 \$203,200 for the purchase of equipment. [1 such phrases repeated 49 times · standby audio before the proceeding, transcribed by the recogniser as speech]

0:54:24 \$203,200 for the purchase of equipment. \$203,200 for the purchase of equipment. \$203,200 for the purchase of equipment. \$203,200 for the purchase of equipment. \$203,200 for the purchase of equipment. \$203,200 for the purchase of equipment. \$203,200 for the purchase of equipment. \$203,200 for the purchase of equipment. Mr. President, we had this discussion, and I thought we had settled on the matter. But when the vote come, we will just vote our own conscience. Thank you. I withdraw. Thank you. Thank you. Senator Blyton. Yes, Mr. President. I just want to put on a record. I know when I went for Senate, my percentage was at 9%. And I really honestly didn't know the amount, but it didn't matter because I know it's going to be a public solvent if elected. Whatever it is, it is. It don't matter what term. Once I got elected, what they did, what they had to do. And I respect that.

0:55:11 And I think it should be no different for no one else. We are all public servants, and we're here to serve. That's the bottom line. Not to immature ourselves in any way, shape, or form. Whether willingly or unwillingly. Thank you so much, Mr. President, for the time. Thank you very much. Roll call on the amendment. Senator Marvin A. Blyton. Senator Blyton. Yes. Senator Blyton. Yes. Senator Angel L. Bolkes Jr. Yes. Senator Bolkes Jr. Yes. Senator Bolkes Jr. Yes. Senator Dwayne M. DeGraff. Yes. Senator DeGraff. Yes. Senator DeGraff. Yes.

- 0:55:45 Senator Ray Fonseca. Yes. Senator Fonseca. Yes. Senator Fonseca. Yes. Yes. Senator Nouvelle E. Francis Jr. Yes. Senator Francis Jr. Nay. Senator Alma Francis Heiliger. Yes. Senator Francis Heiliger. Yes. Senator Francis Heiliger. Yes. Senator Hubert L. Frederick. Yes. Senator Frederick. Yes. Senator Frederick. Yes. Senator Kenneth L. Gittens. No. Senator Gittens. Nay. Senator Maurice C. James. No. Senator James. Nay.
- 0:56:18 Senator Franklin D. Johnson. No. Senator Johnson. Nay. Senator Carla J. Joseph. No. Senator Joseph. Nay. Senator Clifford A. Joseph Sr. Yes. Senator Joseph Sr. Yay. Senator Avery L. Lewis. No. Senator Lewis. Nay. Senator Milton E. Potter. No.
- 0:56:46 Senator Potter. Nay. Senator Kurt A. Viola. Nay. Senator Viola. Nay. Senator Viola. Nay. Mr. President. We have seven yays, seven nays, one not voting. I mean one absent. Excuse me. Thank you very much, Madam Clark. The amendment fails. Do you have any further amendments? Any further amendments? Yes. Colleagues? Senator Viola.
- 0:57:16 You're recognized for your amendment. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I offer amendment number 36-447 to bill number 36-0064. Bill number 36-0064. Bill number 36-0064 is amended by inserting a following appropriately numbered section. Title III, version Islands code chapter 27, section 705 is amended in subsections D and E2 by inserting psychiatric technician after x-ray technician wherever it appears. I so move. Properly moved by Senator Kurt Viola, seconded by Senator Marvin Blyden, Senator Duane de Graff.
- 0:57:49 Hearing no objections. So order. Amendment. You may proceed, Senator Viola, with your amendment. Mr. President, I move amendment number 36-0064. Mr. President, I move amendment number 36-0064. Item number 36-0064. Mr. President, I move amendment number 36-0064. Item number 36-0064. Item number 36-0064. Mr. President, I move amendment number 36-0064. Bill number 36-0064 is amended by adding an appropriate number section as follows. Title 23, Virgin Islands code, chapter 6-0064. Bill 36-0064 is amended by adding an appropriate number section as follows. Title 23, Virgin Islands code, chapter 7, section 551 is amended by designating the existing language in subsection A as paragraph 1 and by adding the following paragraph 2. 2. The VIFEMS may obtain a federal identification number and manage billing and collection system for ambulance service. I so move. Mr. President, I move. Properly moved by Senator Kurt Viola, seconded by Senator Marvin Blyden, Senator Maurice James, Senator Clifford Joseph, and Senator Dwayne Degraff.
- 0:58:57 Hearing no objections, so ordered. Amendment. You may proceed with your amendment, Senator Blyden. I move amendment number 36-0064. Amendment to bill number 36-0064. Bill number 36-0064 is amended by adding the following appropriately numbered section. A. Act number 8473, section 1, subsection Q3, the following line item is stricken. New SPR, St. Croix Cricket Field, Estate Bethlehem, \$2,175,000. B. Notwithstanding any other law, the sum of \$2,175,000 is appropriated in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025 from the Community Facilities Trust Fund to technical amendment, strike public finance authority, insert sports park and recreation. B. As a grant to the Twin City Cricket Association for the development of the St. Croix Cricket Field, the sum remains available until expending. C. All other requirements in Act number 85-78 remain in effect. I so move. B. Thank you very much. B. Properly moved by Senator Cotville, seconded by Senator Clifford Joseph, Senator Maurice James, Senator Marvin Blyden, Senator Hubert L. Frederick, Senator Carla Joseph, Senator Duane DeGraff. Hearing no objections, so ordered.
- 1:00:22 B. Amendment. B. Senator Gittens, you're recognized with your amendment. B. Thank you, Mr. President and colleagues. I rise to offer amendment number 36-453, an amendment to bill number 36-0064 offered by yours truly. B. Bill number 36-0064 is amended by adding the following appropriately numbered section. B. Section blank, act number 8868 is amended in section 1 by striking the year 2024 and inserting 2025. B. I so move. B. Second.
- 1:00:57 B. Properly moved by Senator Kenneth Gittens, seconded by Senator Duane DeGraff, Senator Carla Joseph, Senator Marvin Blyden, Senator Maurice James. B. Hearing no objections, so ordered. B. Any amendments? B. Any further amendments? B. We've exhausted our amendments. B. Madam Clerk, can you please, can we please have a roll call on the bill as amended? B. Senator Marvin A. Blyden. B. Senator Blyden. B. Yes.
- 1:01:31 B. Senator Blyden. B. Yes. B. Senator Angel L. Boulquez Jr. B. Yes. B. Senator Boulquez Jr. B. Yes. B. Senator Boulquez Jr. B. Yes. B. Senator Duane M. DeGraff. B. Yes. B. Senator DeGraff. B. Yes. Senator Ray Fonseca. Senator Fonseca, absent. Senator Novell E. Francis Jr. Senator Francis Jr., yay. Senator Alma Francis Heiliger. Senator Francis Heiliger, yay. Senator Hubert L. Frederick. Senator Frederick, yay. Senator Kenneth L. Gittins. Senator Gittins, yay. Senator Maurice C. James. Senator James, yay. Senator Franklin D. Johnson. Senator Johnson, yay. Senator Carla J. Joseph.
- 1:02:25 Senator Joseph, yay. Senator Clifford A. Joseph Sr. Senator Joseph Sr., yay. Senator Avery L. Lewis. Senator Lewis, yay. Senator Milton E. Potter. Senator Potter, yay. Senator Kurt A. Viale. Senator Viale, yay. Mr. President, we have 14 yays, one absent. Thank you very much, Madam Clerk.

- 1:02:54 Colleagues, Bill Number 36-0064, an act amending Title 33, Virgin Islands Code, Chapter 111, Section 3100i, aligning the disbursement and spending limitations of funds allotted to public schools from the Education Initiative Fund, with the realities of academic planning, ensuring that funds are used to maximize student success as amended has been favorably voted upon by this body and will be forwarded to the Governor for further consideration and action. Thank you so much, Mr. President, Mr. President, Mr. President, Mr. President, Mr. President, Mr. President, Mr. President, Mr. President and colleagues, we've had a very productive day, but I would like to take the opportunity to invite everyone over to the Food Fair tomorrow. Thank you so much, Mr. President, Mr. President, Mr. President, Mr. President, Mr. President, Mr. President and colleagues, we've had a very productive day, but I would like to take the opportunity to invite everyone over to the Food Fair tomorrow on the Island of St. John. Mr. President, Mr. President, Mr. President, Mr. President, Mr. President, Mr. President, we're kicking off our celebration, and of course, the village opens on the 29th, which is Sunday, the day after the Food Fair, we have a great lineup, along with the boat races, panorama, and many other different events, so I really want to just invite everyone to come out to the Island of St. John to enjoy our culture and festivities, and of course, I want to encourage everyone to stay safe, drink responsibly, and enjoy our culture. Thank you for the time, Mr. President.
- 1:04:19 Thank you very much, Senator Angel Borges, Jr. I'll take you up on that invitation. I'm looking for some conking butter sauce from the Food Fair tomorrow. Point of personal privilege, Senator Kenneth Gittens. Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President and colleagues, I'll be remiss if we left here today, and I not bid farewell and best wishes to our custodial supervisor, Mr. President, Mr. President, Mr. President, Mr. President, I'll be remiss if we left here today. Mr. President, Mr. President, Mr. President, Mr. President, I'll be remiss if we left here today. Mr. President, Mr. President, Mr. President, Mr. President, Mr. President, Mr. President, Mr. President, Mr. President, Mr. President, Mr. President, Mr. President, Mr. President, Mr. President, Mr. President, Mr. President, Mr. President, I'll be remiss if we left here today. I guess he's already gone, 5 o'clock p.m. But I wanted to publicly say thank you to him for his services here to the legislature in the last couple of legislatures that he's been here.
- 1:05:15 And I wish him all the best going forward and in his future endeavors. Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Senator Gittens. Absolutely, we want to wish congratulations, best wishes, and all your future endeavors to Mr. Rogers for all that he has contributed towards the success of the Virgin Islands legislature. We'll definitely miss you. We'll definitely miss you. We'll always drop by from time to time, Mr. Rogers. Thank you.
- 1:05:49 Colleagues, we've had a pretty long but successful day. Thank you very much for your contributions, your thoroughness, your collaborative spirit. That is what our constituents truly deserve. The committee or the session for Friday, June 27th, 2025, is hereby. Adjourn. Adjourn. Adjourn.

People named in this transcript

SUSPECTED, and a finding aid only. Names were matched by machine against the spellings used across all 426 of our transcripts, and the title is the one used in the room. Being named here is NOT evidence that a person attended or spoke - only that the name was said. Speech recognition mishears names, so a spelling may be wrong even where no alternative is offered.

- 20x **Senator Avery Lewis**
heard in this transcript as: Avery L. Lewis, Lewis
- 20x **Senator Carla Joseph**
the surname alone also matches: Clifford Joseph; Karla J. Joseph
heard in this transcript as: Carla J. Joseph, Joseph, Joseph Sr
- 20x **Senator Kenneth L. Gittens**
heard in this transcript as: Gettins, Giddens, Gittens, Gittins, Kenneth Gittens, Kenneth L. Gettins
- 19x **Senator Marvin Blyden**
heard in this transcript as: Blyden, Blyton, Marvin A. Blyden, Marvin A. Blyton, Marvin E. Blyden
- 18x **Senator Ray Fonseca**
heard in this transcript as: Fonseca
- 16x **Senator Dwayne DeGraff**
heard in this transcript as: DeGraff, Duane DeGraff, Duane M. DeGraff, Duane de Graff, Dwayne Degraff, Dwayne M. DeGraff
- 16x **Senator Hubert Frederick**
heard in this transcript as: Frederick, Hubert Fredericks, Hubert L. Frederick
- 16x **Senator Marvin A. Blighton**

heard in this transcript as: Blighen, Marvin E. Blighen

15x **Senator Nouvelle Francis**

heard in this transcript as: Francis, Francis Jr, Norman Francis, Nouvelle E. Francis Jr, Novel E. Francis, Novel E. Francis Jr

13x **Senator Marise C. James**

the surname alone also matches: Javan James; Giovanni James Sr
heard in this transcript as: James, Maurice C. James, Maurice James

11x **Senator Milton E. Potter**

heard in this transcript as: Potter

9x **Senator Franklin D. Johnson**

heard in this transcript as: Johnson

8x **Senator Alma Francis-Heyliger**

heard in this transcript as: Alma Francis Heiliger, Francis Heiliger

8x **Senator Kurt Viola**

heard in this transcript as: Kurt A. Viola, Viola

7x **Senator Clifford Joseph**

heard in this transcript as: Clifford A. Joseph, Clifford A. Joseph Sr

6x **Senator Kurt VLA**

heard in this transcript as: Kurt A. VLA, VLA

4x **Senator Angel L. Bolques, Jr.**

heard in this transcript as: Angel L. Bolques Jr., Angel L. Boulquez Jr, Boulquez Jr

3x **Senator Angel L. Bulkes Jr**

heard in this transcript as: Angel L. Bolkes Jr, Bolkes Jr

3x **Senator Joseph Senior**

3x **Senator Kurt Viale**

heard in this transcript as: Kurt A. Viale, Viale

2x **Senator Angel L. Borges Jr**

heard in this transcript as: Angel Borges Jr.

2x **Senator Clifford A. Joseph Senior**

2x **Senator Francis Heidegger**

2x **Senator Karla J. Joseph**

the surname alone also matches: Carla Joseph; Clifford Joseph

2x **Senator Morris C. James**

the surname alone also matches: Javan James; Marise C. James; Neville James

1x **Senator Angel L. Bolkis Jr**

Bills and acts referred to

Matched by number against our own acts corpus. The number is what the recognition heard, so it may be wrong; where it resolved, the title is the one the Legislature gave the act.

Bill 36-0050

Act 9052 · October 30, 2025 · An act amending Act No. 8651 by reprogramming the appropriated funds to the Department of Sports, Parks, and Recreation to fund the completion of the Randall ·Doc· James Racetrack on St. Croix; amending title 4 Virgin Islands Code, section 72(a) regarding the tenure of judges of the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands; amending title 3 Virgin Islands Code, sections 706 and 755 regarding return to work for certain retirees; amending title 19 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 56B regarding waste tire disposal; appropriating funds for the design and construction of the Vaughn Benjamin Monument; appropriating funds for the Virgin Islands Baseball Federation's participation in the Confederation of Pa

Bill 36-0064

Act 9005 · June 27, 2025 · An act amending title 33 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 111, section 3100i to align the disbursement and spending limitations of funds allotted to public schools from the Education Initiative Fund with the realities of academic planning, ensuring that funds are used to maximize student success; appropriating funds to the Virgin Islands Board of Education to administer the Caroline Felicia Adams Aviation Scholarship; amending Act No. 8954 regarding the Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums; amending title 27 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 16 regarding the Appraiser Qualifications Board; appropriating funds to the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority for the purchase and installation of

- Act 8473** · September 17, 2021 · An Act amending Act No. 8365, as amended by Act No. 8411; and Act No. 8451; amending Act No. 8451, section 2(a); amending Act No. 8347, section 1, relating to the fiscal year 2021 operating budget for the Government of the Virgin Islands, to appropriate \$24,423,321 to several departments and agencies to pay outstanding obligations; and providing for other related purposes =
- Act 8868** · An Act appropriating \$250,000 from the St. Croix Capital Improvement Fund to the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority for the emergency restoration of electrical services in the Buggy Hole and Spring Garden/Spring Gut areas on the island of St. Croix ---0
- Act 9052** · October 30, 2025 · An act amending Act No. 8651 by reprogramming the appropriated funds to the Department of Sports, Parks, and Recreation to fund the completion of the Randall ·Doc· James Racetrack on St. Croix; amending title 4 Virgin Islands Code, section 72(a) regarding the tenure of judges of the Superior Court of the Virgin Islands; amending title 3 Virgin Islands Code, sections 706 and 755 regarding return to work for certain retirees; amending title 19 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 56B regarding waste tire disposal; appropriating funds for the design and construction of the Vaughn Benjamin Monument; appropriating funds for the Virgin Islands Baseball Federation-s participation in the Confederation of Pa
- Act 8651** · An Act appropriating \$5,000,000 to the Department of Sports, Parks, and Recreation to hind the completion of the Randall ·Doe· James Racetrack on the island of St. Croix ---0
- Act 9005** · June 27, 2025 · An act amending title 33 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 111, section 3100i to align the disbursement and spending limitations of funds allotted to public schools from the Education Initiative Fund with the realities of academic planning, ensuring that funds are used to maximize student success; appropriating funds to the Virgin Islands Board of Education to administer the Caroline Felicia Adams Aviation Scholarship; amending Act No. 8954 regarding the Division of Libraries, Archives and Museums; amending title 27 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 16 regarding the Appraiser Qualifications Board; appropriating funds to the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority for the purchase and installation of
- Act 8954** · November 20, 2024 · An Act amending title 31 Virgin Islands Code, chapters 21and 23, sections 205, 23 1a, 232, 236, 236a, and 239 pertaining to the management of public property and procurement and sale of goods and services; amending title 19 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 34, section 778(2) pertaining to the Virgin Islands Cannabis Use Act; amending title 30 Virgin Islands Code, section 104 pertaining to the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority; amending Act Nos. 8899 and 8916 to provide supplemental appropriations: and for other related purposes
- Act 8365** · An Act providing an appropriation from the General Fund of the Government of the Virgin Islands for the operation of the Government of the Virgin Islands during the fiscal year October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021 Re it enacted by the Legislature ofthe Virgin islands: SECTION 1. The sum listed, or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to accomplish the purposes specified, as set forth, are appropriated and authorized to be paid from any funds in the General Fund of the Treasury of the Virgin islands, which amounts shall be available for the fiscal year October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021. FY 2021 0100 GENERAL FUND A. ORG 110 DEPARTMENT OFJUSTICE PERSONNEL & FRINGE BENEFITS \$ 12,063
- Act 8411** · December 11, 2020 · An Act amending Act No. 8365, relating to the fiscal year 2021 operating budget for the Government of the Virgin Islands to increase the funding for wage adjustments from \$2,623,000 to \$9,760,658, to appropriate \$18,000,000 to the Single Payer Utility Fund; to reduce the operating expenses for the Department of Finance from \$2,091,757 to \$1,591,757; to reduce the budget for the Department of Education from \$167,807,284 to \$164,180,173; to increase the Department of Public Works- appropriation for the Abandoned Vehicles Programs in St. Croix, and St. Thomas from \$25,000 to \$75,000; to appropriate an additional \$75,000 for a St. John Abandoned Vehicles Program, and \$400,000 for addition road w
- Act 8451** · May 4, 2021 · An Act amending Act No. 8365, relating to the fiscal year 2021 operating budget for the Government of the Virgin Islands to appropriate S3,533,333 to the Department of Justice to pay the settlement agreement of Joe Harold Vanrerpool d/b/a Vanterpool Enterprises v. Gorennnent of the Virgin Islands; to appropriate S2,000,000 to the Department of Labor for the payment of outstanding Worker-s Compensation payments to medical providers; to reduce the line item for Department of Education Interscholastic Sports from \$125,000 to \$1 10,000; amending Act No. 8411. to appropriate \$40,000 to Clean Sweep Frederiksted for the beautification of the town of Frederiksted; to appropriate \$15,000 to the Depar
- Act 8347** · An Act providing an appropriation from the Internal Revenue Matching Fund for the fiscal year October 1, 2020, through September 30, 2021 ---0

Referred to but not found in our acts corpus: Bill 36-0043, Bill 36-0051