

BILL NO. 36-0047

Thirty-Sixth Legislature of the Virgin Islands

March 28, 2025

An Act amending Act No. 8920 to appropriate \$25,000,000 from the Southern Trust Company Settlement Fund to pay retroactive wages for retired and active government employees and for other purposes

PROPOSED BY: Senators Novelle E. Francis, Jr., Clifford A. Joseph, Sr.,
Milton E. Potter, Kurt A. Violet, and Marvin A. Blyden

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:

SECTION 1. Act No. 8920 is amended as follows:

- (a) strike sections 5, 15 and 19;
- (b) in section 6, strike “\$20,000,000” and insert “\$10,000,000”;
- (c) in section 12, strike “STC Settlement Fund” and insert “Mental Health Survivor Fund”;
- (d) in section 13, strike "\$5,000,000" and insert "\$4,000,000”;
- (e) in section 17:
 - (1) strike "\$3,400,000" and insert "\$1,980,000”;
 - (2) strike "\$2,000,000" and insert "\$1,080,000”; and
 - (3) strike "\$1,400,000" and insert "\$900,000”;
- (f) in section 18, subsection (a), strike “\$400,000” and insert “\$500,000”.

1 **SECTION 2.** (a) The sum of \$22,000,000 is appropriated from the Southern Trust
2 Company Settlement Fund (“STC Settlement Fund”) to the Office of Management and Budget
3 in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, for retroactive payments owed to survivors of
4 deceased retired government employees, retired government employees, and active
5 government employees. The payments must be paid no later than May 30, 2025.

6 (b) The sum of \$6,000,000 is appropriated from the STC Settlement Fund to the
7 Department of Finance to pay the outstanding debt owed to Pafford Medical Services by the
8 Department of Health and the Virgin Islands Fire and Emergency Medical Services.

9 (c) The sum of \$5,000,000 is appropriated from the STC Settlement Fund to Virgin
10 Islands Waste Management Authority for wastewater services and outstanding vendor
11 payments to solid waste haulers.

12 (d) The sum of \$2,000,000 is appropriated from the STC Settlement Fund to purchase
13 medical and surgical supplies as follows:

14 (1) \$1,000,000 to the Governor Juan F. Luis Hospital and Medical Center (JFL);
15 and

16 (2) \$1,000,000 to the Roy Lester Schneider Hospital (RLS).

17 (e) The sum of \$1,600,000 is appropriated from the STC Settlement Fund to the
18 Department of Human Services for renovation, staffing, and supplies for the expansion of the
19 Herbert Grigg Home For the Aged as follows:

20 (1) \$400,000 in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025; and

21 (2) \$1,000,000 in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026.

22 (f) The sum of \$5,000,000 is appropriated from the STC Settlement Fund to the Virgin
23 Islands Port Authority for renovations and enhancement of the Ann Abramson Pier and

adjacent areas to include Frederiksted beach. The Port Authority must submit the plan to the President of the Legislature within 120 days of enactment.

(g) The sum of \$10,000,000 is appropriated from the STC Settlement Fund to the Office of Management and Budget for the purchase of a management system for JFL and RLS. Invoices are to be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget to be processed for payment. Both JFL and RLS shall submit:

(a) a comprehensive austerity plan to the Governor and the President of the Legislature no later than 30 days after passage of this act;

(b) a professional development plan for use of the management system no later than 30 days after passage of this act; and

(c) a plan that improves the billing system and collection of Medicare, Medical Assistance Program payments and other insurance with clear processes for documentation, coding and processing.

SECTION 3. The sum of \$7,000,000 utilized by the Government of the Virgin Islands for vendor payments must be redeposited into the STC Settlement Fund by September 30, 2026.

BILL SUMMARY

Section 1 amends various sections of Act No. 8920.

Section appropriates funds the Southern Trust Company Settlement Fund to pay retroactive wages for retired and active government employees and survivors of deceased retired government employees, outstanding debt owed to Pafford Medical Services, outstanding vendor payments to solid waste haulers, Fund to purchase medical and surgical supplies, the expansion of the Herbert Grigg Home For the Aged, renovations and enhancement

1 of the Ann Abramson Pier and adjacent areas to include Frederiksted beach, and the purchase
2 of a management system for the Juan F. Luis and Roy L. Schneider Hospitals.

3 Section 3 mandates the Government of the Virgin Islands to reimburse the SIC
4 Settlement Fund of \$7,000,000 utilized for vendor payments by September 30, 2026.

5 **BR25-0187/February 21, 2025/PFA/Revised/March 24, 2025/PFA**