

07/22/2024-SPECIAL ORDERED

BILL NO. 35-0313**Thirty-Fifth Legislature of the Virgin Islands****July 22, 2024**

An Act appropriating \$100,000 to allow the Virgin Islands Department of Human Services to provide meals to persons waitlisted to participate in the Meals on Wheels program

PROPOSED BY: Senators Diane T. Capehart, Donna A Frett-Gregory,
Milton E. Potter, Novelle E . Francis Jr., Marise C. James,
Franklin D. Johnson, Marvin A. Blyden and Angel L. Bolques, Jr.

1 **WHEREAS**, the Elderly Nutrition Program, or Meals on Wheels as is more commonly
2 known is found in all fifty states and territories; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Meals on Wheels is a program that delivers meals to seniors at home; and

4 **WHEREAS**, studies have shown that Meals on Wheels programs improves food security
5 and quality of life amongst those seniors enrolled; and

6 **WHEREAS**, our culture ad traditions teach us to have a deep respect for our elders; and

7 **WHEREAS**, in fiscal yar 2024, the Meals on Wheels program has serviced 849
8 individuals and served almost 140,000 meals; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the current waitlist consists of 77 individuals on St. Croix and 20 on St.
10 Thomas; and

11 **WHEREAS**, additional funding is needed to clear the current waitlist for the Meals on
12 Wheels program throughout the Virgin Islands; and

WHEREAS, the additional staffing and transportation required to sustain clearing the current waitlist will be adjusted in the fiscal year 2025 budget for the Virgin Islands Department of Human Services; Now, Therefore

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:

SECTION 1. (a) The sum of \$100,000 is appropriated in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, from the General Fund of the Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands, to the Virgin Islands Department of Human Services, for the Elderly Nutrition Program known as Meals on Wheels (“Program”) to allow the 77 individuals on St. Croix and 20 individuals on St. Thomas who are on the Program’s waiting list, to receive meals under the Program.

(b) The appropriated sum covers the cost of the meals and any additional personnel costs associated with getting the meals delivered to the individuals during the 2024 fiscal year.

SECTION 2. Not later than August 5, 2024, the Virgin Islands Department of Human Service shall provide meals to the 77 individuals on St. Croix and the 20 individuals on St. Thomas under the Elderly Nutrition Program otherwise known as the Meals on Wheels Program.

BILL SUMMARY

This bill appropriates \$100,000 from the General Fund to the Virgin Islands Department of Human Services to provide meals to waitlisted individuals to the end of the 2024 fiscal year.

BR24-1217/ July 22, 2024/ SLR