

BILL NO. 36-0060

Thirty-Sixth Legislature of the Virgin Islands

March 28, 2025

An Act amending title 14 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 113, section 2251 allowing for the possession and use of laser/electric stun devices for self-defense purposes

PROPOSED BY: Senator Carla J. Joseph

WHEREAS, citizens have the right to protect themselves, their families, their homes and residences; and

WHEREAS, tasers/electric stun devices are designed not to cause death or serious bodily injury and are preferable in self-defense rather than firearms, knives, machetes, or other weapons which cause death, permanent injury or disfigurement; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of states allow the use of tasers/electric stun devices; and

WHEREAS, the possession of a taser/electric stun device or the lawful use of a taser/electric stun device in self-defense should not be considered a crime; and

WHEREAS, the use of a taser/electric stun device allows certain people who have a moral or religious objection to firearms or using deadly force to protect themselves, families or residences without deadly force; and

WHEREAS, women benefit from taser/electric stun devices because women are generally weaker than a male assailant; and

WHEREAS, women are less likely to carry a firearm but prefer the option of a taser/electric stun device or pepper-spray for self-protection; Now, therefore,

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:

SECTION 1. Title 14 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 113, section 2251(a)(2) is amended by adding the following subsection (d):

“(d) An individual may lawfully possess a taser/electric stun device, which is not designed to cause death or serious bodily injury for the protection and defense of the individual, residence, or place of business.

BILL SUMMARY

This bill legalizes the possession and use of taser/electrical stun devices for self-defense purposes.

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