

OVERIDES, A RESOLUTION, COASTAL ZONE PERMITS AND BILLS MOVES FORWARD

Date : June 14, 2018

ST.THOMAS- Members of the 32nd Legislature, chaired by Senate President Myron Jackson, convened in Legislative Session at the Capitol Building on Thursday, to vote on items on the agenda to include overrides, a resolution, coastal zone permits/requests, and bills. All measures approved will be forwarded to the governor for further consideration.

Lawmakers voted favorably for the override of three bills vetoed by Governor Kenneth Mapp. As a result, enacted into law is the following: Bill No. 32-0002 to authorize the V.I. Government to purchase the Estate Catherineberg from WICO and for other purposes; Bill No. 32-0175 to grant the Economic Development Commission more autonomy; and Bill No. 32-0024 to provide for the position of Curator and to establish the Preservation of Historic Government Collections Act and other purposes.

Senators also voted and approved Bill No. 32-0170- A Resolution honoring and commending Lorna Lenise Freeman for her outstanding charitable performances to the community and her many contributions to the people of the Virgin Islands and for being a true ambassadress of the Virgin Islands.

“It is no question that those who have known Lorna has acknowledged that she was born with a gift. She is a human instrument. The early years of her church engagement was instrumental in who she is as a woman and songstress,” said Sen. Jackson “It is unfortunate that many times in our community, we tend to overlook what is required to become a professional and to live that gift. Lorna has lived like that over the years and as a result, never dropped her standards. We honor you as one of our national treasures.”

Sen. Nereida River O’Reilly “I am increasingly impressed with her voice each time she sings. It is an honor to support this resolution because Lorna is truly a national treasure.”

Separately, policymakers shared their remarks for the zoning requests. Sen. Dwayne DeGraff said, “I rise in support of these bills. There are issues in which DPNR did not support some of the zoning requests for various reasons. However, recommendations were m, and now it is being followed through.”

Sen. Janette Millin Young stated that people are always inquiring about the Senate passing measures to improve the economy. When in fact supporting zoning requests like these in which residents want to be entrepreneurs is one way of achieving that task.

Sen. Jackson said, “The zonings before us speaks to economic development. Local Virgin Islanders who desire to go out and start a business. The issue of zoning which includes the land and water use plan, we can’t continue to kick down the road. These islands are beautiful, but we still must ensure that we maintain their beauty.

Senators voted and approved the following:

- Bill No. 32-0200-An Act granting the variance for Plot No. 17 of Parcel No. 2 Estate Concordia. West End Quarter, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, to allow for a retail clothing store and a bakery
- Bill No. 32-0217-An Act Rezoning Plot No. 56 of Parcel No. 67 of Estate Mount Welcome. Estate End Quarter ‘A’ St. Croix from R-2 (Residential-Low Density -One and Two Family) to R-3 (Residential-Medium Density)
- Bill No. 32-0219- An Act to amend Official Zoning Map SCZ-6 to allow for the rezoning of Plot No. 10-DI Estate Constitution Hill, Queen’s Quarter, St. Croix, Virgin Islands for R-1 (Residential-Low Density) to R-2 (Residential-Low-Density-One and Two Family)
- Bill No. 32-0222- An Act granting a zoning use variance for Plot No. 2 AF Estate Upper Love, Prince Quarter, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, to allow a guest house to be used as a bed and breakfast business
- Bill No. 32-0223- An Act amending Official Zoning Map SCZ-12 by rezoning Plot No. 1-C Estate Clifton Hill, King Quarter, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, from C(Commercial, to B-2 (Business- Secondary/Neighborhood)
- Bill No. 32-0055 – An Act providing for the Virgin Islands Department of Public Works to replace public parking signs that refer to “Handicap Parking”, making an appropriation from the Transportation Trust Fund for replacement of parking signs and for other related purposes

- Bill No, 32-0064 - An Act amending Title 3 Virgin Islands Code, Chapter 24, Section 431 providing for the establishment of a registry for persons 60 years and older with disabilities living alone
- Bill No. 32-0129 – An Act amending Title 14 of the Virgin Islands Code, Chapter 3A relating to human trafficking to enact the Virgin Islands Uniform Prevention of and Remedies of Human Trafficking Act and amend Title 5, Chapter 303, Section 3541 relating to the statute of limitations for prosecuting the crime of Human Trafficking
- Bill No. 32-0146 – An Act honoring and commending Irvin “Brownie” Brown, Sr., for his significant contributions to the culture and music of the Virgin Islands by renaming the portion of General Gade, which runs from the intersection of Veterans Drive up to the intersection of Silke Gade “The Irvin “Brownie” Brown, Sr. Road
- Bill No. 32-0148 – An Act amending Title 1, Virgin Islands Code, Chapter 11 by adding section 200i establishing the Month of May as Virgin Islands Stroke Awareness Month
- Bill No. 32-0179 – An Act amending Title 24, Virgin Islands Code, Chapter 10, Sections 221, 228 and 230, relating to the apprenticeship standards

Senators present are Myron Jackson, Positive Nelson, Tregenza Roach, Alicia “Chucky” Hansen, Janette Millin Young, Janelle Sarauw, Dwayne DeGraff, Nereida Rivera O’Reilly, Brian Smith, Marvin Blyden, Novelle Francis, Jean Forde, Neville James, Kurt Vialet and Sammuell Sanes

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