



# Legislature of the Virgin Islands

# PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## RULES COMMITTEE APPROVES FRANCOIS TO HEAD LOTTERY

After over three hours of intense questioning by lawmakers, the Committee on Rules and Judiciary Wednesday evening (7-15-09) ON St. Thomas approved and reported out to the Full Body the nomination of Conrad E. Francois to be the next Director of the Virgin Islands Lottery.

“My education, experience and knowledge in key areas such as finance, accounting, auditing and the administration of programs for the economically disadvantage have allowed me to develop the insight and sensitivity to be an effective Executive Director of the Virgin Islands Lottery,” stated Francois.

Under questioning by Chairman Michael Thurland and Senator Patrick Simeon Sprauve, Francois stated the VI Lottery was meant to operate like a business and be able to make a profit to continue making contributions to the Treasury of the VI Government and to public service programs.

Responding to concerns and pointed queries expressed by Senators Sammuel Sanes, Celestino A. White Sr. and Usie R. Richards, Francois indicated that one of his short term objectives will be to implement a sound financial management system along with internal accounting control systems to “provide accurate financial information and prevent waste, fraud and abuse of funds.”

The Committee forwarded the nomination of Mr. Francois to the Floor with a favorable recommendation on a 6-1 vote, with Senators Thurland, Sprauve, Sanes, White, Neville James and Carlton Dowe voting in favor, and Senator Usie R. Richards voting in opposition.

In other action, senators also reported out to the Full Body:

- Bill 28-0019 – An Act to enact the “Election Reform Law of 2009”;
- Bill 28-0026 – to require that the Legislature be copied with a report of the granting of EDA benefits;

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- Bill 28-0036 – An Act providing that all employees of the “Manassah Bus Company” shall become full time employees of the Government of the Virgin Islands;
- Bill 28-0043 – providing for free transportation to senior citizens on VITRAN buses;
- Bill 28-0050 – to grant administrative leave to government employees who are members of boards and commissions to attend boards and commissions meetings; and
- Bill 28-0069 – An Act relating to motor vehicle transport within the territory.

Non-committee members Nellie Rivera O’Reilly and Shawn-Michael Malone also attended Wednesday evening’s Rules & Judiciary Committee meeting.

**END**