

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
REGULATIONS, AND AGRICULTURE

11/19/2020-AMENDED AND REPORTED OUT TO THE FLOOR  
10/05/2020-REPORTED OUT TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JUDICIARY

**BILL NO. 33-0376**

**Thirty-Third Legislature of the Virgin Islands**

**September 22, 2020**

An Act requiring the Department of Agriculture and the President of the University of the Virgin Islands to develop a territorial agriculture plan and providing an appropriation of \$180,000 from the General Fund to the University of the Virgin Islands assist with developing the plan

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**PROPOSED BY:** Senators Donna Frett-Gregory, Janelle K. Sarauw, Kurt A. Vialet,  
Dwayne M. DeGraff, Athneil “Bobby” Thomas and  
Allison L. DeGazon  
Co-sponsor: Steven D. Payne, Sr.

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1 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:*

2           **SECTION 1.** (a) The Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and the President  
3 of the University of the Virgin Islands shall develop a territorial agriculture plan.

4           (b) The territorial agriculture plan, known as the “agriculture plan” must contain policy  
5 and funding recommendations to support and expand the local food system, to increase locally  
6 grown food production and to provide food security for the Territory. The agriculture plan must  
7 include short-term and long-term goals, including proposals for legislative enactment.

8           (c) The agriculture plan must be comprised of:

9                   (1) A comprehensive regulatory component for the territory's farming  
10 industries;

1           (2)     Business models for profitable and sustainable community-based local  
2 food and farming businesses;

3           (3)     A plan for the development of a position for and the hiring of a local  
4 food and farm coordinator to carry out programs and to coordinate efforts within 180  
5 days of submission of the plan;

6           (4)     The creation of a local food and farm fund from voluntary sources to  
7 support initiatives, and agriculture-related activities;

8           (5)     Recommendations for the establishment of a local food and farm  
9 advisory committee, composed of seven members, including the Commissioner of the  
10 Department of Agriculture or the Commissioner's designee, the Executive Director of  
11 the Economic Development Authority or the Executive Director's designee; two  
12 members from the University of the Virgin Islands, including the President of the  
13 University of the Virgin Islands or the President's designee and the Dean of  
14 Agriculture or the Dean's designee and three other members appointed by the  
15 Governor, with those three being farmers from each island, to create and oversee the  
16 local food and farm fund, participate in the grant decision-making process, disburse  
17 resources from the fund, advise the Local Food and Farm Coordinator, collect and  
18 evaluate critical local food systems production and marketing data and, respond to any  
19 requests by the Legislature for policy or funding recommendations;

20           (6)     The creation of a "local food symbol" that can be placed on stickers,  
21 posters, stamps, etc. for sale;

22           (7)     The Development of education and training programs for local food  
23 farmers, entrepreneurs, and processors; and

24           (8)     The collection of data, creation of benchmarks, and assessment of  
25 progress on the building of the local food and farm economy.

