

FLOOR

**BILL NO. 34-0001**

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

**January 11, 2021**

A Resolution organizing and establishing the Majority Caucus, electing the officers, appointing the chairpersons, vice-chairpersons and members of the standing committees of the Thirty-Fourth Legislature of the Virgin Islands

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**PROPOSED BY:** Senators Marvin A. Blyden, Samuel Carrión, Novelle E. Francis, Jr., Donna A. Frett-Gregory, Kenneth L. Gittens, Carla Joseph, Steven D. Payne, Sr., Milton E. Potter, Janelle K. Sarauw, Kurt A. Violet, and Genevieve Whitaker

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1           **WHEREAS**, section 7 (a) of the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands requires  
2 regular sessions of the Legislature to be held annually commencing on the second Monday in  
3 January; and

4           **WHEREAS**, section 6 (g) of the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands grants the  
5 Legislature of the Virgin Islands the authority to exercise all the attributes, inherent in  
6 legislative assemblies; and

7           **WHEREAS**, the election of its officers, establishment of committees, appointment of  
8 members to the committees, and the general organization of the body are inherent powers of  
9 the Legislature; and

1           **WHEREAS**, it has been a long-standing rule and practice of the Legislature that after  
2 meeting on the second Monday in January of odd-numbered years, at the Capitol Building in  
3 Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, and convene in regular session to organize the Legislature; and

4           **WHEREAS**, it has been a long-standing practice, as authorized by the Rules of the  
5 Legislature, that the officers, committee chairpersons, and members on committees may be  
6 elected by adoption of a resolution naming the officers, committees, chairs, vicechairs and  
7 members and organizing the Legislature; and

8           **WHEREAS**, section 6 (g) of the revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands grants  
9 authority to the Legislature to adopt, amend and repeal rules of procedure for its operation; and

10           **WHEREAS**, consistent with the authority granted by the Revised Organic Act of the  
11 Virgin Islands the purpose of this resolution is to organize the Thirty-Fourth Legislature of the  
12 Virgin Islands; and to adopt rules of procedure governing the legislative process and operation  
13 of the Thirty-Fourth Legislature; Now, Therefore,

14 ***Be it Resolved by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands THAT:***

15           **SECTION 1.** (a) the Thirty-Fourth Legislature adopts the document entitled  
16 “Resolution For The Organization of the Thirty-Fourth Legislature of The Virgin Islands”,  
17 dated January 11, 2021, and bearing the signatures of Senators Marvin A. Blyden, Samuel  
18 Carrión, Novelle E. Francis, Jr., Donna A. Frett-Gregory, Kenneth L. Gittens, Carla Joseph,  
19 Steven D. Payne, Sr., Milton E. Potter, Janelle K. Sarauw, Kurt A. Vialet, and Genevieve  
20 Whitaker, which is attached to and by this reference made a part of this Resolution and which  
21 specifically establishes its Majority Caucus, as provided in section 2; elects Senators to the  
22 Offices of the Thirty-Fourth Legislature, as provided in section 3; and establishes its standing  
23 committees and appoints the committee chairs, committee vice-chairs and members on each  
24 standing committee, as provided in section 4.

25           **SECTION 2.** The Majority Caucus is established and is composed of:

26           (1) Senator Marvin A. Blyden;

- 1 (2) Samuel Carrión;
- 2 (3) Senator Novelle E. Francis, Jr.;
- 3 (4) Senator Donna A. Frett-Gregory;
- 4 (5) Senator Kenneth L. Gittens;
- 5 (6) Senator Carla Joseph;
- 6 (7) Senator Steven D. Payne, Sr.;
- 7 (8) Senator Milton E. Potter;
- 8 (9) Senator Janelle K. Sarauw;
- 9 (10) Senator Kurt A. Vialet; and
- 10 (11) Senator Genevieve Whitaker.

11 **SECTION 3.** The following members are elected to the offices of the Thirty-Fourth  
12 Legislature as provided in this section.

- 13 (a) Senator Donna A. Frett-Gregory is elected President;
- 14 (b) Senator Novelle E. Francis, Jr. is elected Vice President;
- 15 (c) Senator Genevieve Whitaker is elected Secretary;
- 16 (d) Senator Marvin A. Blyden is elected Majority Leader;
- 17 (e) Senator Novelle E. Francis, Jr. is elected Secretary for Intergovernmental and  
18 Territorial Affairs;
- 19 (f) Senator Marvin A. Blyden is elected Liaison to the United States Congress;
- 20 (g) Senator Genevieve Whitaker is elected Liaison to the United States Department  
21 of Interior & Office of Insular Affairs; and
- 22 (h) Senator Kenneth L. Gittens, is elected Liaison to the White House.

23 **SECTION 4.** The following standing committees of the Thirty-Fourth Legislature  
24 are established, and the chairs, vice chairs, and members of the committees are appointed as  
25 provided in this section.

1     **(a)     COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JUDICIARY**

2  
3     Chair:            Senator Milton E. Potter

4  
5     Vice Chair:       Senator Kenneth L. Gittens

6  
7     Members:         Senator Novelle E. Francis, Jr.

8  
9                        Senator Steven D. Payne, Sr.

10  
11                       Senator Carla Joseph

12  
13                       Senator Genevieve Whitaker

14  
15                       Senator Franklin D. Johnson

16  
17     **(b)     COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

18  
19     Chair:            Senator Kurt A. Vialet

20  
21     Vice Chair:       Senator Donna A. Frett-Gregory

22  
23     Members:         Senator Marvin A. Blyden

24  
25                        Senator Samuel Carrión

26  
27                        Senator Javan E. James, Sr.

28  
29                        Senator Dwayne M. DeGraff

30  
31                        Senator Janelle K. Sarauw

32  
33     **(c)     COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HOSPITALS & HUMAN SERVICES**

34  
35     Chair:            Senator Novelle E. Francis, Jr.

36     Vice Chair:       Senator Marvin A. Blyden

37  
38     Members:         Senator Kenneth L. Gittens

39  
40                        Senator Kurt A. Vialet

41  
42                        Senator Samuel Carrión

43  
44                        Senator Alma Francis Heyliger

45  
46                        Senator Janelle K. Sarauw

47  
48     **(d)     COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

49  
50     Chair:            Senator Genevieve Whitaker

51

1 Vice Chair: Senator Janelle K. Sarauw  
 2  
 3 Members: Senator Donna A. Frett-Gregory  
 4  
 5 Senator Alma Francis Heyliger  
 6  
 7 Senator Milton E. Potter  
 8  
 9 Senator Carla Joseph  
 10  
 11 Senator Kurt A. Vialet  
 12

13 (e) **COMMITTEE ON DISASTER RECOVERY AND INFASTRUCTURE**

14  
 15 Chair: Senator Janelle K. Sarauw  
 16  
 17 Vice Chair: Senator Kurt A. Vialet  
 18  
 19 Members: Senator Carla Joseph  
 20  
 21 Senator Marvin A. Blyden  
 22  
 23 Senator Genevieve Whitaker  
 24  
 25 Senator Samuel Carrión  
 26  
 27 Senator Franklin D. Johnson  
 28

29 (f) **COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & AGRICULTURE**

30  
 31 Chair: Senator Kenneth L. Gittens  
 32  
 33 Vice Chair: Senator Milton E. Potter  
 34  
 35 Members: Senator Novelle E. Francis, Jr.  
 36 Senator Donna A. Frett-Gregory  
 37  
 38 Senator Javan E. James, Sr.  
 39  
 40 Senator Dwayne M. DeGraff  
 41  
 42 Senator Alma Francis Hyliker  
 43

44 (g) **COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY, JUSTICE & PUBLIC SAFETY**

45  
 46 Chair: Senator Steven D. Payne, Sr.  
 47  
 48 Vice Chair: Senator Dwayne M. DeGraff  
 49  
 50 Members: Senator Kenneth L. Gittens  
 51

1 Senator Novelle E. Francis, Jr.

2  
3 Senator Javan E. James, Sr.

4  
5 Senator Alma Francis Heyliger

6  
7 Senator Franklin D. Johnson

8  
9 **(h) COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, & CONSUMER**  
10 **PROTECTION**

11  
12 Chair: Senator Carla Joseph

13  
14 Vice Chair: Senator Novelle E. Francis, Jr.

15  
16 Members: Senator Marvin A. Blyden

17  
18 Senator Milton E. Potter

19  
20 Senator Javan E. James, Sr.

21  
22 Senator Dwyane M. Degraff

23  
24 Senator Alma Francis Heyliger

25  
26 **(i) COMMITTEE ON HOUSING, TRANSPORTATION &**  
27 **TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

28  
29 Chair: Senator Marvin A. Blyden

30  
31 Vice Chair: Senator Genevieve Whitaker

32  
33 Members: Senator Steven D. Payne, Sr.

34  
35 Senator Kurt A. Vialet  
36 Senator Samuel Carrión

37  
38 Senator Franklin D. Johnson

39  
40 Senator Janelle K. Sarauw

41  
42 **(j) COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, SPORTS, PARKS AND RECREATION**

43  
44 Chair: Senator Samuel Carrión

45  
46 Vice-Chair: Senator Steven D. Payne, Sr

47  
48 Members: Senator Dwayne M. DeGraff

49  
50 Senator Carla Joseph

51

1 Senator Milton E. Potter

2  
3 Senator. Alma Francis Heyliger

4  
5 Senator Javan E. James, Sr.

6  
7 **(k) COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

8  
9 Chair: Senator Donna A. Frett-Gregory, Chair

10  
11 Vice Chair: Senator Novelle E. Francis, Jr., Vice-Chair

12  
13 Members: Senator Genevieve Whitaker, Secretary

14  
15 Senator Marvin A. Blyden, Majority Leader

16  
17 Senator Samuel Carrión

18  
19 Senator Dwayne M. DeGraff

20  
21 Senator Alma Francis Heyliger

22  
23 Senator Kenneth L. Gittens

24  
25 Senator Javan E. James, Sr.

26  
27 Senator Franklin D. Johnson

28  
29 Senator Carla Joseph

30  
31 Senator Steven D. Payne, Sr.

32  
33 Senator Milton E. Potter

34  
35 Senator Janelle K. Sarauw

36  
37 Senator Kurt A. Vialet

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39 **BILL SUMMARY**

40 Section 1 adopts the document entitled “Resolution For The Organization of the Thirty-  
41 Fourth Legislature of The Virgin Islands”, dated January 11, 2021, and establishes the Majority  
42 Caucus. Section 2 establishes the Majority Caucus.

43 Section 3 provides for the election of the officers of the 34<sup>th</sup> Legislature.

44 Section 4 establishes the standing committees of the 34<sup>th</sup> Legislature, their chairs, vice-  
45 chairs and membership.

46 **BR 21-0001/January 11, 2021/YLT**