

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

12/09/2021-AMENDED AND REPORTED OUT TO THE FLOOR
07/26/2021-REPORTED OUT TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JUDICIARY

BILL NO. 34-0073

Thirty-Fourth Legislature of the Virgin Islands

June 21, 2021

An Act relating to the allocations of federal funds designated for the Territory to require the Governor to submit to the Legislature proposed projects, programs, or other uses for the expenditure of federal funds designated for the Territory under the American Rescue Plan Act and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act; to require the final allocations of all federal funds to be authorized by the Legislature; to require the Office of Management and Budget to submit to the Legislature a full accounting report of all federal relief or economic stimulus funds received, obligated, and disbursed” under the American Rescue Plan Act and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act; and to provide for other related purposes

PROPOSED BY: Senators Donna A. Frett-Gregory, Novelle E. Francis, Jr.,
Milton E. Potter, Kurt A. Vialet, Genevieve R. Whitaker,
Marvin A. Blyden, Samuel Carrión, Alma Francis Heyliger,
Steven D. Payne, Sr., Javan E. James, Sr., Dwayne M. DeGraff and
Franklin D. Johnson

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

2 **SECTION 1.** (a) Upon enactment, the Governor of the Virgin Islands shall submit to the
3 Legislature of the Virgin Islands, through the President of the Legislature, proposed projects,
4 programs, or other uses for the expenditure of federal funds designated for the Territory under
5 the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, P.L. 117-2 and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs
6 Act, P.L. 117-58 for uses authorized by those acts. Except as provided in section 2, the final

1 allocations of all federal funds must be authorized by the Legislature and any disbursement of
2 those funds must be in accordance with an act of the Legislature.

3 (b) Not later than 30 days after the passage of this act, the Governor of the Virgin
4 Islands shall submit to the Legislature of the Virgin Islands, through the President of the
5 Legislature, recommended allocations of any other federal relief or economic stimulus funds and
6 any unreleased federal funds designated for the Territory as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

7 **SECTION 2.** The Governor of the Virgin Islands may expend not more than \$5,000,000
8 annually from the funds received under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, P.L. 117-2, and
9 the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, P.L. 117-58 without Legislative approval.

10 **SECTION 3.** Not later than 30 days after the passage of this act, the Office of
11 Management and Budget shall submit to the Legislature of the Virgin Islands, through the
12 President of the Legislature, a full accounting report of all federal relief or economic stimulus
13 funds received, obligated, and disbursed” under the following acts:

14 (1) American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, P.L. 117-2, and

15 (2) Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, P.L. 117-58.

16 **SECTION 4.** The Office of Management and Budget by the 10th day of each month shall
17 submit to the Legislature a full accounting of all federal funds disbursed under the American
18 Rescue Plan Act of 2021, P.L. 117-2, and the Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act, P.L. 117-58
19 and P.L. 117-2 for the preceding month.

20 **BILL SUMMARY**

21
22 The bill requires the Governor to submit to the Legislature, proposed projects, programs,
23 or others uses for the expenditure of federal funds under the American Rescue Plan Act and the
24 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act; any other federal funds and any unreleased federal funds
25 designated for the Territory; authorizes the Governor to expend not more than \$5,000,000
26 annually from the funds received under the two aforementioned acts without Legislative approval
27 and requires that all other disbursement of the funds be made in accordance with an act of the
28 Legislature; requires the Office of Management and Budget to submit to the Legislature, a full
29 accounting report of all federal relief or economic stimulus funds received, obligated, and

1 disbursed” including a full accounting of all funds that have been disbursed; and requires that
2 OMB submit to the Legislature, on a monthly full accounting of all federal funds disbursed under
3 the forgoing acts for the preceding month.

4

5 **BR 21-0398/June 14, 2021/GC**