

ACT NO. 8308

BILL NO. 33-0292

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Regular Session

2020

An Act providing for referendum vote on convening a constitutional convention to consider adopting the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands or portions of it as the Constitution of the Virgin Islands

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WHEREAS, the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands of 1954 has been the governing body of laws by which the residents of the Virgin Islands are governed on a daily basis; and

WHEREAS, the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands has served the people of the Virgin Islands well, and there has been no outcry as to its applicability to the people of the Virgin Islands; and

WHEREAS, the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands has proved to be a durable document that has had less than ten amendments since its enactment; and

WHEREAS, the people of the Virgin Islands should have the right to democratically determine whether or not to allow the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands to become Constitution of the Virgin Islands; and

WHEREAS, the congressional authorization for the Virgin Islands to establish a constitutional convention, the rights, duties and obligations of the convention, once established, and guidelines for the drafting of the proposed constitution, are set forth in Public Law. No. 94-584 approved by Congress on October 12, 1976; and *Now Therefore*,

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:

SECTION 1. The Board of Elections shall conduct a referendum election during the General Elections on November 3, 2020, to determine whether the people of the Virgin Islands wish to convene a constitutional convention to consider adopting the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands or a portion of it as the Constitution of the Virgin Islands. The question on the ballot must be presented as follows:

Mark One Square Only

Are you in favor of the Legislature enacting legislation to convene a constitutional convention to adopt the Revised Organic Act off the Virgin Islands, 68 Stat. 497 as the Constitution of the Virgin Islands?

[]

[]

YES

NO

SECTION 2. The Legislature is not required to take any action toward enacting a statute to convene a constitutional convention to adopt the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands as the Constitution of the Virgin Islands, unless both: (1) a majority, fifty percent plus one, of the persons casting a ballot during the General Election on November 3, 2020, vote on the referendum issue set forth in Section 1 of this Act, and (2) a majority, fifty percent plus one, of those persons voting on the referendum cast a vote in the affirmative.

Thus passed by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands on May 7, 2020.

Witness our Hands and Seal of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands this 8th day of May, A.D., 2020.



Novelle E. Francis, Jr.
Novelle E. Francis, Jr.
President

Alicia V. Barnes
Alicia V. Barnes
Legislative Secretary



Bill No. 33-0292 is hereby approved.

Witness my hand and the seal of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, this 19th day of May, 2020 A.D.

Albert Bryan, Jr.
Albert Bryan, Jr.
Governor