

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
AND AGRICULTURE

**BILL NO. 35-0049**

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

**March 2, 2023**

An Act amending title 7, chapter 1, of the Virgin Islands Code by adding subchapter VIII, establishing a Local Food and Farm Council in accordance with mandate five of the Virgin Islands Agricultural Plan

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**PROPOSED BY:** Senators Donna A. Frett-Gregory, Angel L. Bolques, Jr.,  
and Javan E. James, Sr.

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

2       **SECTION 1.** Title 7, chapter 1 of the Virgin Islands Code is amended by adding a new  
3 subchapter VIII, that reads as follows:

4       **“Subchapter VIII. Virgin Islands Agriculture Plan Act (§§31-)**

5       **§ 31. Local Food and Farm Council**

6       (a) A Local Food and Farm Council is established within the University of the Virgin  
7 Islands for budgetary purposes only. The Local Food and Farm Council is composed of 11  
8 members, with each nongovernmental member serving a three-year term. A member may serve  
9 until the member’s successor is appointed and qualified. The Governor may remove any  
10 member.

11       (b) The Local Food and Farm Council is composed of:

12               (1) The Commissioner of the V.I. Department of Agriculture, or designee.

13               (2) The President of the University of the Virgin Islands, or designee;

1           (3) The Dean of the University of the Virgin Islands School of Agriculture, or  
2           designee;

3           (4) The Executive Director of the V.I. Economic Development Authority, or  
4           designee;

5           (5) The Commissioner of the V.I. Department of Education, or designee;

6           (6) The Commissioner of the V.I. Department of Planning and Natural  
7           Resources, or designee;

8           (7) Five community members appointed by the Governor, with the advice and  
9           consent of the Legislature, including three licensed Virgin Islands farmers of livestock  
10          or crops—one from St. Croix, one from St. Thomas and one from St. John, and two food  
11          industry representatives—one from each district, being either a licensed wholesaler,  
12          grocer or restauranter.

13          (8) Each member of the Council shall receive \$100.00 for each day or part  
14          thereof spent in the attendance of official meetings, plus actual travel expenses when  
15          the member must travel from the island of his residence to attend an official meeting.

16          (c) The Local Food and Farm Council, among other responsibilities prescribed in the  
17          Virgin Islands Agricultural Plan, shall:

18               (1) Make necessary amendments to the Virgin Islands Agriculture Plan;

19               (2) Make recommendations for changes to existing law or policy and respond to  
20               any requests by the Legislature for policy or funding recommendations as legislated;

21               (3) Advise the Local Food and Farm Coordinator;

22               (4) Collect and evaluate the production and marketing data of critical local food  
23               systems;

24               (5) Participate in grant decision-making processes, in an advisory capacity;

