



LEGISLATURE OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

35th Legislature, THE HONORABLE SENATOR DIANE T. CAPEHART

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Chairperson Committee on Rules & Judiciary
Vice Chair Committee on Disaster Recovery & Infrastructure
Member Committees on Health, Hospitals and Human Services
Committee on Education and Workforce Development
Committee on Economic Development & Agriculture
Subcommittee on Health and Public Safety

March 9, 2023 and April 11, 2023 Committee on Rules and Judiciary Meeting

March 9, 2023

Members of the Committee on Rules and Judiciary, led by Senator Diane T. Capehart convened in a meeting at the Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room on March 9, 2023 at 9:00AM and April 11, 2023 at 10:00AM. All approved nominees and bills were forwarded to the full body for further consideration.

In Block 1, Committee members considered the nomination of Mr. Luther F. Renee to the Virgin Islands Casino Control Commission. The nomination was voted upon favorably.

In Block 2, we further considered the following bills, all of which were approved unanimously:

Bill No. 35-0006, an act honoring and commending former Senator George E. Goodwin for his many years of expansive contributions to the Virgin Islands community as a whole, through his roles in various areas of service to the territory as well as advocacy for social justice for underserved people in the Virgin Islands; to rename the Cricket Field located on Parcel H of Tract 1, Estate Nazareth, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands in his honor; and to award former George E. Goodwin the Virgin Islands Medal of Honor; and for other related purposes. The measure was proposed by Senator Carla J. Joseph, **Sponsored by Senators Carla J. Joseph, Donna A. Frett-Gregory, Diane T. Capehart, Milton E. Potter, Alma Francis Heyliger, Ray Fonseca, and Marvin A. Blyden; Co-Sponsored by Angel L. Bolques, Jr., and Kenneth L. Gittens.**

Bill No. 35-0011, an act honoring and commending former Senator Horace A. Callwood, Sr. posthumously for his dedication, service, and commitment to the people of the Virgin Islands and naming the north-south street immediately east of Windward Passage in his memory. The proposed measure was sponsored by **Senators Marvin A. Blyden, Diane T. Capehart, Kenneth L. Gittens, Angel L. Bolques Jr., Donna A. Frett-Gregory, Alma Francis Heyliger, Milton Potter, and Carla J. Joseph**

Bill No. 35-0007, a resolution honoring and commending Mr. Boyd "Boyzie" Orlanzo Todman for his many contributions to the people and the youth of the Virgin Islands. The proposed measure was **sponsored by Senators Dwayne M. Degraff, Angel L Bolques, Jr., Donna A. Frett-Gregory, Milton E. Potter, Ray Fonseca and Marvin A. Blyden; Co-Sponsored by Carla J. Joseph**

Bill No. 35-0009, an act amending title 1 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 11, section 171(a) relating to the observance of national holidays and enacting The Juneteenth National Independence Day Act to declare June 19 a legal holiday in the Virgin Islands. The measure was **sponsored by Senator Marvin A. Blyden, Alma Francis Heyliger, and Milton E. Potter and Co-sponsored by Senators Angel L. Bolques, Jr., Novelle E. Francis, Jr., Kenneth L. Gittens and Ray Fonseca.**

Senators present at today's committee hearing included Committee Members: Diane T. Capehart, Chair, Milton E. Potter, Vice Chair; Members: Angel L. Bolques, Jr., Kenneth L. Gittens, Marise C. James, Franklin D. Johnson, and Carla J. Joseph. Non-committee members: Marvin A. Blyden, Dwayne M. Degraff, Ray Fonseca, and Novelle E. Francis Jr.

In honor of National Women's Month and Virgin Islands History Month, Senator Capehart recognized in Committee today Activist and Cariso Queen of the 50's/60's Mrs. Leona Brady Watson for her contribution to the Virgin Islands culture.

April 11, 2023

Committee members voted favorably for all the nominations. The nominees were sent to the Legislature by Governor Albert Bryan, Jr. as set forth in Section (16) of the Revised Organic Act of 1954 and Title 3, Section 65a, of the Virgin Islands Code. The nominees are Mr. Aaron Hutchins to serve on the Virgin Islands Territorial Park Board of Trustees and Celestino White and Willard John to the Virgin Islands Port Authority Governing Board. Additionally, vetted to serve as a Superior Court Judge is Nominee Carol Thomas-Jacobs, Esq.

Separately, senators voted in the affirmative for the following:

- Bill No. 35-0010: An Act honoring and commending Mr. Aloy "Wenty" Nielsen for his years of service to the Virgin Islands community and naming the Christiansted Bypass in his honor; making a \$10,000 appropriation from the General Fund for signage at Aloy Nielsen Bypass and for other related purposes. **Sponsored by: Senators Angel L. Bolques, Jr., Novelle E. Francis, Jr., and Kenneth E. Gittens, co-sponsored by Senator Marise C. James.**
- Bill No. 35-0017: An Act approving the Lease Agreement between the Government of the Virgin Islands, acting through its Commissioner of the Department of Property and Procurement, and Suntech Group, Inc. d/b/a St. Thomas Gas for Parcel No. 4 Submarine Base, No. 6, Southside Quarter, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, consisting of approximately 27, 732.393 U.S. sq. ft. or 0.637 U.S. acre as shown on P.W.D. File No. D9-1426-T78 to be used for the purpose of operating a trucking, transportation, delivery, and retail business of bottled propane gas, and for no other purpose. **Sponsored by: Senator Novelle E. Francis, Jr.**
- Bill No. 35-0018: An Act approving the Lease Agreement between the Government of the Virgin Islands, acting through its Commissioner of the Department of Property and Procurement, and A-9 Trucking Enterprises, Inc. and Sarnelli Bros., (V.I.) Inc. d/b/a V.I. Recycling Company. **Sponsored by: Senators Novelle E. Francis, Jr. and Donna Frett-Gregory**
- Bill No. 35-0019: An Act approving the lease agreement between the Government of the Virgin Islands, acting through its Commissioner of the Department of Property and Procurement, and the Virgin Islands Telephone Corporation, d/b/a VIYA, for a portion of a telecommunication tower and bunker in Building No. 1, Suite 2, Parcel No. 6 Recovery Hill, Company Quarter, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, consisting of a telecommunications tower and a 9' x 8' room and bunker, zoned P, for the establishment and operation of wireless link connections and to house associated equipment in the 9' x 8' bunker, and for no other purposes whatsoever. **Sponsored by: Senator Novelle E. Francis, Jr**



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- BLOCK III Bill No. 35-0025: An Act approving the Lease Agreement between the Government of the Virgin Islands Department of Property and Procurement and Anthony Isaac d/b/a Ace Trucking and Trash Removal. Sponsored by: Senators Angel L. Bolques, Jr., and Novelle E. Francis, Jr. Bill No. 35-0049: 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. **Sponsored by: Senators Donna A. Frett-Gregory and Angel Bolques, Jr.**
- Bill No. 35-0055: An Act amending Title 17 of the Virgin Islands Code pertaining to the school curriculum in elementary and secondary schools. **Sponsored by: Senator Franklin D. Johnson**
- Bill No. 35-0026: - An Act amending Title 22 Virgin Islands Code relating to insurers becoming members of a Federal Home Loan Bank and matters relating thereto. **Sponsored by: Senator Donna A. Frett Gregory**
- Bill No. 35-0050: - An Act amending the Virgin Islands Code, title 3, chapter 7, by designating the existing provisions as subchapter I and adding a subchapter II establishing the Bureau of School Construction and Maintenance within the Virgin Islands Department of Education for budgetary purposes; amending title 33, chapter 111, section 3092a, changing the Education Maintenance Fund to the School Construction, Maintenance, and Capital Fund; and making an appropriation of \$2,500,000 from the Virgin Islands Education Initiative Fund to the School Construction, Maintenance, and Capital Fund and for other related purposes. **Sponsored by: Senators Donna A. Frett-Gregory, Marise C. James, and Angel Bolques, Jr.**
- Bill No. 35-0054: - An Act amending Title 1 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 7, section 103b, relating to the Centennial Treasures Award, to provide for a single, lumpsum award payment. **Sponsored by: Senator Dwayne M. DeGraff**

However, the following bill was held in committee:

- Bill No. 35-0013: An Act amending Title 20 Virgin Islands Code, part II, chapter 35, relating to the issuance of operators' licenses and identification cards to allow applicants to obtain limited local purpose identification cards and operators' licenses without providing certain federally required documentation. **Sponsored by: Senator Samuel Carrión.**

Senator Capehart applauds her staff and the Central Staff employees for their roles in another successful meeting and congratulated the Nominees for making progress in the process and thanks them for their willingness to serve.

The following senators attended the meeting: Diane T. Capehart, Franklin D. Johnson, Carla J. Joseph, Angel Bolques, Jr., Marise C. James, Milton Potter, and Kenneth L. Gittens. Also in attendance were Non-Committee members Senators Dwayne DeGraffe, Donna A. Frett-Gregory, Novelle E. Francis, Jr.