

# LEGISLATURE OF THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS



35<sup>th</sup> Legislature, THE HONORABLE SENATOR DIANE T. CAPEHART

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**Chair**  
**Vice Chair**  
**Member**

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

## REVISED

**TO:** All Members, Committee on Rules and Judiciary  
Honorable Milton E. Potter, Vice Chairman  
Honorable Angel L. Bolques, Jr.  
Honorable Kenneth L. Gittens  
Honorable Marise C. James  
Honorable Franklin D. Johnson  
Honorable Carla J. Joseph

**FROM:** The Honorable Senator Diane T. Capehart  
Chair, Committee on Rules and Judiciary

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Diane T. Capehart", positioned above a horizontal line.

**DATE:** July 9, 2024

**RE:** Committee on Rules and Judiciary Meeting— Thursday, July 18, 2024

The Committee on Rules and Judiciary has scheduled a meeting for *Thursday, July 18, 2024, at 9:00 AM in the Frits E. Lawaetz Legislative Conference Room, St. Croix, Virgin Islands* to consider the following *nominations, bills and resolutions*:

### BLOCK I

- Governor's Nomination of Judge Ernest E. Morris, Jr., Nominee  
Superior Court of the Virgin Islands – District of St. Croix

### BLOCK II

- Governor's Nomination of Julian Penn, Nominee  
Virgin Islands Taxicab Commission – District of St. Thomas

### BLOCK III

- Governor's Nomination of Harith Wickrema, Nominee  
Virgin Islands Conservation District – District of St. John

### BLOCK IV

**Bill No. 35-0229** - An Act honoring and commending the Eighth elected Governor of the Virgin Islands, Kenneth Ezra Mapp for his years of service to the people of the Virgin Islands and naming Route 75 on the island of St. Croix from Bassin Triangle intersection at Route 70, Estate Richmond and ending at Krausse's Lagune the "Gov. Kenneth E. Mapp Highway"; appropriating \$45,000 from the General Fund of the Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands to the Department of Public Works to implement the mandates of this Act, to bestow the Virgin Islands Medal of Honor on Kenneth Ezra Mapp and for other related purposes. *Sponsored by Senators Franklin D. Johnson, Donna A. Frett-Gregory, Milton E. Potter, Samuel Carrion, and Javan E. James, Sr.*

### Invited Testifiers

- Val Collens, Resident
- Mona Barnes, Resident
- Attorney Peter Hiebert, Friend
- Margaret Guarino, Friend
- Delroy Richards, Resident
- Pedro Cruz, Resident

### BLOCK V

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**Bill No. 35-0227** - An Act amending title 3 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 37 to enact the Virgin Islands Commission on Ethics and Conflicts of Interest. *Sponsored by Senators Kenneth L. Gittens, Franklin D. Johnson, Marvin A. Blyden*

**Bill No. 35-0228** - An Act amending title 3 Virgin Islands Code, chapters 8 and 37 to enumerate the duties and functions of the Virgin Islands Commission on Ethics and Conflicts of Interest; appropriating \$500,000 from the General Fund of the Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands to the Virgin Islands Commission on Ethics and Conflicts of Interest and for other related purposes. *Sponsored by Senators Kenneth L. Gittens, Franklin D. Johnson, Marvin A. Blyden*

### Invited Testifiers

- Attorney Gordon Rhea  
Attorney General Nominee  
Department of Justice
- Delia Thomas  
Inspector General  
Office of the VI Inspector General
- Attorney Marjorie Whalen  
President  
VI Bar Association
- Regina deChabert Petersen, Esq.  
Administrator of Courts  
Judiciary of the VI
- Julie Smith-Todman, Esq.  
Chief Public Defender  
Office of the Public Defender
- Dr. Gwen Moolenaar  
League of Women Voters

**Bill No. 35-0269** - An Act amending title 2 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 1 by adding a section 10 providing a penalty for the commission of perjury in proceedings before the Legislature of the Virgin Islands. *Sponsored by Senator Kenneth L. Gittens*

### Invited Testifiers

- Attorney Gordon Rhea  
Attorney General Nominee  
Department of Justice
- Julie Smith-Todman, Esq.  
Chief Public Defender  
Office of the Public Defender
- Dr. Gwen Moolenaar  
League of Women Voters

### BLOCK VI

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**Bill No. 35-0240** - An Act transferring the administration of the Government Insurance Fund from the Commissioner of the Virgin Islands Department of Finance to the Commissioner of Virgin Islands Department of Labor and amending various sections of title 24 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 11 to facilitate better recovery for injury or disease that arises out of and in the course of employment in the Virgin Islands under the Workers' Compensation Administration, and to ensure that workers entitled to Workers' Compensation benefits receive medical coverage, rehabilitation services, and disability compensation without undue delay by merging the benefits and payment components of the Workers' Compensation Insurance Program. *Sponsored by Senator Novelle E. Francis, Jr., by Request of the Governor*

**Bill No. 35-0262** - An Act appropriating \$1,434,950 in Fiscal Year 2024 from the Community Facilities Trust Fund for the pre-construction soft cost funding to prepare the Charlotte Amalie harbor for

dredging. *Sponsored By Senator Novelle E. Francis, Jr., Nand Marvin A. Blyden by Request of the Governor*

## **BLOCK VII**

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**Bill No. 35-0195** - A Resolution honoring and commending Mr. Willard John for his many contributions to the youth and the culture of the Virgin Islands. *Sponsored by Senator Marise C. James.*

**Bill No. 35-0239** - An Act honoring and commending Mrs. Claire Lorraine Brown Roker for her dedicated service to the Virgin Islands community by naming the visitors center at the Ann E. Abramson Marine Facility, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, the “Claire L. Roker Visitors Center”. *Sponsored by Senators Novelle E. Francis, Jr., Javan E. James, Sr., and Angel L. Bolques, Jr.*

**Bill No. 35-0242** - A Resolution honoring and commending Miguel Santos, Jr., aka “DJ Poppy Pops” for his contributions in the field of music and in radio broadcasting of musical events and local social musical events and specifically contributing to the art of deejaying and the teaching of deejaying. *Sponsored by Senator Angel L. Bolques, Jr.*

Cc: All Senators  
All Chiefs of Staff  
All Divisions  
Public Affairs  
Media