

ACT NO. 9074

BILL NO. 36-0210

THIRTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Regular Session

2026

An act appropriating the sum of \$4,000,000 from the Virgin Islands Insurance Guaranty Fund to the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority for the repair, replacement, and operation of streetlights throughout the territory; amending the Caregivers Leave Act; amending Act No. 9035 regarding certain miscellaneous appropriations; amending title 27 Virgin Islands Code section 221 pertaining to licensure requirements for specific medical professions; amending title 3 Virgin Islands Code, section 8b, subsection (c) regarding the requirement for the burial of veterans and for other purposes

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Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding the use restrictions in title 22 Virgin Islands Code, section 237(a)(3)(A), and title 33 Virgin Islands Code, section 3061(b), the sum of \$4,000,000 is appropriated in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, from the Virgin Islands Insurance Guaranty Fund to the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority for the repair, replacement, and operation of streetlights as follows:

- (1) \$1,800,000 for St. Croix;
- (2) \$1,200,000 for St. Thomas/St. John; and
- (3) \$1,000,000 for payment of outstanding bills.

SECTION 2. No later than 45 days after enactment, the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority shall submit a streetlighting plan to the Legislature of the Virgin Islands. Funds appropriated under section 1 shall be made available only after submission of the plan.

SECTION 3. The funds appropriated in section 1 remain available until expended.

SECTION 4. Title 3 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 25, section 590b, as amended by Act No. 9064, (Bill No. 36-0086) is further amended by inserting the following new subsection (e):

“(e) For purposes of this section, “serious illness” means a medically diagnosed health condition that carries a high risk of mortality and either substantially diminishes

the individual's daily functioning or quality of life or imposes a significant caregiving burden."

SECTION 5. Act No. 9035 (Bill No. 36-0174) is amended as follows:

In C/CNTR MISCELLANEOUS ORGANIZATIONS FY 2026

(a) line-item DOT OUR TOWN FREDERIKSTED by inserting "INC" after "FREDERIKSTED"; and

(b) line-item OMB FUTURE JOBS SKILLS OF TOMORROW by inserting "INC" after "TOMORROW".

SECTION 6. Title 27 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 4B, section 221 is amended as follows:

(1) In subsection (a):

(a) Strike the language and insert the following language:

"(a) Every applicant seeking an initial license under this title must pass a national criminal history background check submitted by each Board as defined in this chapter as a condition of licensure. The Virgin Islands Board of Medical Examiners, the Board of Dental Examiners, the Board of Nurse Licensure, the Board of Pharmacy, the Board of Optometrical Examiners, the Board of Physical Therapy, the Board of Chiropractic Examiners, the Board of Podiatry Examiners, the Board of Psychology Examiners, the Board of Veterinary Medicine and the Board of Naturopathic Physicians each shall, with the assistance of the Virgin Islands Police Department, submit to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the fingerprinting for every initial applicant to be licensed by each respective board."

(2) In subsection (b):

(a) after "mandatory" insert "fingerprint based";

(b) after "advanced practice" insert "registered";

(c) strike "(APN's)" and insert "(APRN's)"; and

(d) strike "psychologist assistants" and insert "psychological associates".

(3) Strike the language in subsection (c) and insert the following:

"(c) The Virgin Islands Board of Medical Examiners, the Board of Dental Examiners, the Board of Nurse Licensure, the Board of Pharmacy, the Board of Optometrical Examiners, the Board of Physical Therapy, the Board of Chiropractic

Examiners, the Board of Podiatry Examiners, the Board of Psychology Examiners, the Board of Veterinary Medicine and the Board of Naturopathic Physicians are each authorized to use Federal Bureau of Investigation records to screen of all initial licensing applicants..”

(4) Insert the following subsections (d) and (e):

“(d) The license type and categories under the purview of this section that each Board shall conduct a finger-print based history national background check are:

- (1) Virgin Islands Board of Medical Examiners:
 - (a) Physician Licenses
 - (b) Physician Assistant Licenses
- (2) Virgin Islands Board of Dental Examiners:
 - (a) Dentists Licenses
 - (b) Dental Hygienists
 - (c) Dental Assistants
- (3) Virgin Islands Board of Nurse Licensure
 - (a) Certified Nurse Assistant Licenses
 - (b) Registered Nurse Licenses
 - (c) Licensed Practical Nurse Licenses
 - (d) Advanced Practice Registered Nurse Licenses
- (4) Virgin Islands Board of Pharmacy
 - (a) Pharmacist Licenses
 - (b) Pharmacy Technician Licenses
- (5) Virgin Islands Board of Optometrical Examiners
 - (a) Doctor of Optometry Licenses
 - (b) Certified Therapeutic Doctor of Optometry

- (6) Virgin Islands Board of Physical Therapy
 - (a) Physical Therapist Licenses
 - (b) Physical Therapy Assistant Licenses
- (7) Virgin Islands Board of Chiropractic Examiners
 - (a) Chiropractor Licenses
- (8) Virgin Islands Board of Podiatry Examiners
 - (a) Doctor of Podiatry Licenses
- (9) Virgin Islands Board of Psychology Examiners
 - (a) Psychologist Licenses
 - (b) Psychological Associate Licenses
- (10) Virgin Islands Board of Veterinary Medicine
 - (a) Veterinarian Licenses
 - (b) Veterinary Technician Licenses

(e) The fingerprints obtained under this chapter shall be initially submitted to the Virgin Islands Police Department for a check of territorial records and then forwarded to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal history check. All information obtained because of the criminal background check must remain confidential and used for official governmental purposes only and may not be disseminated to or shared between boards or agencies nor with a private entity for any purpose.”

SECTION 7. There shall be erected on the grounds of the Capitol Building, No. 1 Old Barracks Yard, a permanent structure to house the urn containing the cremains of Alma B. Ottley next to the structure containing the cremains of the late Earle B. Ottley.

SECTION 8. Title 3 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 1, section 8b, subsection (c) is amended by striking the last sentence.

SECTION 9. Title 1 Virgin Islands Code is amended as follows:

- (a) chapter 2, section 20:
 - (1) In paragraph (1) by striking “Enid M. Baa” and inserting “Charles Wesley Turnbull”;

(2) In paragraphs (2) and (7) by striking "College" and inserting "University";

(b) chapter 3, section 41 is amended in the definition of "St John" by striking "or District" and in the definition of "St. Thomas" by striking "or District".

SECTION 10. Title 20 Virgin Islands Code, part II, chapter 38, section 421 is amended in the following instances:

(a) by striking the words "drive-yourself cars" and inserting "rental vehicles"; and

(b) by striking the words "Director of Motor Vehicles" and inserting "Commissioner of the Virgin Islands Police Department, upon consultation with the Commissioner of the Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs".

Thus passed by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands on January 12, 2026.

Witness our Hands and Seal of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands this 13th day of January, A.D., 2026.



Milton E. Potter
President

Avery L. Lewis
Secretary



Bill No. 36-0210 is hereby approved.

Witness my hand and the Seal of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, this 20th day of January, 2026 A.D.

Albert Bryan Jr.
Governor