

ACT NO. 9014

BILL NO. 36-0120

THIRTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Regular Session

2025

An act appropriating the sum of \$341,460 from the Virgin Islands Education Initiative Fund to the Virgin Islands Department of Education in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025 for the purpose of conducting evaluations to determine students' eligibility for special education services

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WHEREAS, the Virgin Islands Department of Education currently has a backlog of more than 569 student evaluations required to determine eligibility for special education services;

WHEREAS, timely and comprehensive evaluations are essential to identifying students with disabilities and ensuring they receive the appropriate educational intervention and support;

WHEREAS, delays in evaluations—often caused by limited personnel or financial resources—can result in students being denied necessary services, adversely affecting their academic performance and social development;

WHEREAS, additional funding is needed to increase the Department's capacity to conduct evaluations and to ensure students in the territory are assessed timely; and

WHEREAS, dedicating funds specifically for special education evaluations promotes compliance with federal and local laws and furthers educational equity for all Virgin Islands students; Now, Therefore,

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:

SECTION 1. (a) The sum of \$341,460 is appropriated in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, from the Virgin Islands Education Initiative Fund of the Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands to the Virgin Islands Department of Education for the

purpose of conducting evaluations to determine students' eligibility for special education services. The appropriation must be allocated as follows:

- (a) \$161,460 to the St. Croix District; and
 - (b) \$180,000 to the St. Thomas/St. John District.
- (b) The funds appropriated under subsection (a) remain available until expended.

Thus passed by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands on September 17, 2025.

Witness our Hands and Seal of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands this 19th day of September, A.D., 2025.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Milton E. Potter".

Milton E. Potter
President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Avery L. Lewis".

Avery L. Lewis
Secretary



Bill No. 36- 0120 is hereby approved.

**Witness my hand and the Seal of the Government of
the United States Virgin Islands at Charlotte Amalie,
St. Thomas, this 1st day of October, 2025 A.D.**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Albert Bryan Jr.", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

**Albert Bryan Jr.
Governor**