ACT NO. 9127

BILL NO. 36-0279

THIRTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Regular Session

2026

An act amending title 3 Virgin Islands Code by creating the position of Women Veterans Coordinator within the Office of Veterans Affairs

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Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:

SECTION 1. Title 3 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 1, is amended by inserting section 8d to read:

"§8d. Office of Veterans Affairs; Women Veterans Coordinator

(a) The position of Virgin Islands Women Veterans Coordinator is created within the Office of Veterans Affairs. The coordinator shall be a veteran as defined in section 8a of this chapter and an active member of the National Association of State Women Veterans Coordinators at all times while in the position. The responsibilities of the coordinator, who shall work under the direction of the Director of Veterans Affairs, include the following:

(1) conduct outreach and provide assistance to women veterans regarding veteran's benefits and other benefit programs that provide services and resources to women veterans, their spouses, surviving spouses, children, parents, siblings, caregivers, domestic partners, fiancés, legal guardians, dependents, or other persons residing in the household of a woman veteran.

(2) provide assistance in applying for federal and state benefits and aid that women veterans their spouses, surviving spouses, children, parents, siblings, caregivers, domestic partners, fiancés, legal guardians, dependents, or other persons residing in the household of a woman veteran may be entitled to and helping appeal any denial of benefits and aid.

(3) develop and distribute informational material for women veterans regarding veterans' benefits and other benefit programs that provide services and resources to women veterans, their spouses, surviving spouses, children, parents, siblings, caregivers, domestic partners, fiancés, legal guardians, dependents, or other persons residing in the household of a woman veteran.

(4) ensure compliance with all existing policies and regulations pertaining to the needs of women veterans on the territorial and federal level and make recommendations to the Director regarding the improvement of benefits and services to women veterans.

(5) liaise between the Office of Veterans Affairs, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, nursing homes, territorial agencies, community groups, advocates and other veterans and military organizations and interested parties.

(6) advocate for all women veterans in the territory.

(7) develop and maintain a clearinghouse for information and resources for women veterans.

(8) plan, develop, organize, coordinate, and promote programs, service, events and activities that recognize, educate and honor women veterans, to include seminars, veteran human rights conferences, veterans' benefits and resources events, and veterans' cultural competence training.

(9) include the contributions of women veterans on behalf of the United States and the Virgin Islands on the official website of the Office of Veterans Affairs.

(10) to the extent such information is available, compile and submit quarterly reports to the Director regarding the status of women veterans in the Virgin Islands including:

(A) the demographics of women veterans in the Virgin Islands;

(B) the number of women veterans listed by island; and

(C) the unique needs of the women veterans population.

(b) The Women Veterans Coordinator shall submit an annual report to the Director and the Governor of the Virgin Islands. The report shall include a description of the Women Veterans Coordinator's activities for the calendar year and the programs developed under the provisions of this section.

Thus passed by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands on August 26, 2026.

Witness our Hands and Seal of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands this 28th day of August, A.D., 2026.

Milton E. Potter
President

Avery L. Lewis
Secretary



Bill No. 36- 0279 is hereby approved.

Witness my hand and the Seal of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, this 4th day of September, 2026 A.D.

Albert Bryan Jr.
Governor