COMMITTEE ON BUDGET, APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCE

BILL NO. 36-0415

Thirty-Sixth Legislature of the Virgin Islands

October 30, 2026

An act providing for a feasibility study to determine the viability of constructing a permanent steel-frame stadium structure at the Randall "Doc" James Racetrack on St. Croix

PROPOSED BY: Senator Hubert L. Frederick

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:

SECTION 1. (a) The University of the Virgin Islands shall conduct, or contract with a qualified independent professional engineering, architectural, or consulting firm to conduct, a comprehensive feasibility study to determine the viability of constructing a permanent steel-frame stadium structure at the Randall "Doc" James Racetrack on St. Croix.

(b) The feasibility study must, at a minimum, include:

(1) an evaluation of the proposed site and existing conditions, including topography, drainage, soil conditions, utilities, access, and other relevant physical conditions;

(2) an assessment of structural and engineering requirements for the proposed permanent steel-frame stadium structure;

(3) an evaluation of applicable wind-load requirements and the ability of the proposed structure to withstand severe weather conditions experienced in the Virgin Islands, consistent with applicable building codes and engineering standards;

(4) an analysis of proposed seating capacity and the anticipated needs of spectators, participants, officials, vendors, emergency personnel, and other users of the facility;

(5) an assessment of accessibility requirements, including compliance with applicable disability-access requirements;

(6) an evaluation of public safety, emergency access, crowd-control, ingress and egress, fire protection, and other life-safety considerations;

(7) an assessment of necessary site preparation and supporting infrastructure, including utilities, drainage, road access, parking, lighting, telecommunications, and other improvements required to support the proposed structure;

(8) a detailed preliminary cost estimate for the entire proposed project, including design and engineering, site preparation, materials, construction, labor, infrastructure improvements, permitting, equipment, contingencies, and other reasonably anticipated project costs;

(9) an estimate of projected long-term maintenance, repair, insurance, and lifecycle costs associated with the proposed structure;

(10) an identification and evaluation of potential local, federal, public-private, grant, bond, or other lawful funding sources that may be available to finance design and construction;

(11) a preliminary design concept sufficient to illustrate the general size, configuration, location, and functional requirements of the proposed structure;

(12) an estimated timeline for design, permitting, procurement, construction, inspection, and completion of the proposed project;

(13) a review of any existing plans, agreements, engineering reports, site assessments, capital improvement projects, or other available documents concerning the Randall "Doc" James Racetrack to avoid unnecessary duplication and to ensure that the proposed stadium structure is evaluated in the context of existing and planned improvements to the facility;

(14) an identification of any additional studies, permits, approvals, environmental reviews, engineering analyses, land-use actions, property interests, or other prerequisites that would be required before construction may commence; and

(15) any recommendations necessary to determine whether and under what conditions the proposed project should move forward.

(c) In conducting the study, the University of the Virgin Islands shall consult with other departments, agencies, instrumentalities, regulatory bodies, engineers, architects, horseracing stakeholders, and other persons or entities whose expertise or participation is reasonably necessary to complete the study.

SECTION 2. Not later than 90 days after the effective date of this act, the University of the Virgin Islands shall submit a written final report to the Governor and the President of the Legislature.

SECTION 3. (a) Notwithstanding the use restrictions in 33 V.I.C. § 3087(a), the sum of $100,000 is appropriated in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2027, from the St. Croix

Capital Improvement Fund to the University of the Virgin Islands for the feasibility study mandated in section 1 of this act.

(b) The funds appropriated in subsection (a) remain available until expended.

BILL SUMMARY

This bill directs the University of the Virgin Islands to conduct or provide for a feasibility study to determine the viability of constructing a permanent steel-frame stadium structure at the Randall “Doc” James Racetrack on St. Croix.

BR26-1338/October 20, 2026/GC