

RESOLUTION NO. 1919

BILL NO. 36-0131

THIRTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Regular Session

2025

A resolution to impose sanctions against Senator at Large Angel L. Bolques, Jr., for violating the Code of Ethical Conduct of the Thirty-Sixth Legislature of the Virgin Islands

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WHEREAS, on March 28, 2025, the President of the Thirty-Sixth Legislature of the Virgin Islands appointed the Committee on Ethical Conduct (“CEC”) and requested the CEC to provide an advisory opinion to include the CEC’s findings and recommendations for further action by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands against the Respondent, Senator at Large Angel L. Bolques, Jr., if the Committee concluded that Respondent’s conduct alleged in a March 28, 2025 complaint submitted by an employee in Respondent’s office (“Petitioner”) violated the Legislature’s Code of Ethical Conduct;

WHEREAS, the Code of Ethical Conduct, Rule 810(b) of the Rules of the Thirty-Sixth Legislature, provides that upon the request of any Senator or officer or employee of the Legislature, the Committee on Ethical Conduct (“CEC”) is mandated to provide an advisory opinion regarding “any alleged violation of the standards of conduct of the Legislature on the general propriety of past, current, or anticipated conduct of a Senator, officer, or employee.”;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the requirement of Rule 810(d) to provide an opportunity for those under investigation to be heard, the CEC held a preliminary interview with Respondent on May 20, 2025, and a separate preliminary interview with the Petitioner on April 29, 2025;

WHEREAS, the CEC also interviewed current and former employees of the Respondent and employees of the Legislature;

WHEREAS, after having reviewed the evidence presented, the CEC found that the testimony during the preliminary interview of Respondent established by a preponderance of the evidence that Respondent had violated the Thirty-Sixth Legislature’s Rules on Ethical

Conduct and on June 17, 2025, the CEC issued and transmitted a Statement of Alleged Violations to Respondent;

WHEREAS, on July 12, 2025, the CEC offered a Stipulated Settlement Agreement (“Agreement”) to Respondent wherein Respondent would enter a plea of No Contest to the following charge:

“CHARGE VII – Violation of Rule 102(a): Violation of Oath of Office

Specification IV: The Respondent engaged in conduct that constituted a breach of the Oath of Office by failing to faithfully and impartially discharge duties with fidelity, specifically relating to financial mismanagement and improper treatment of staff. During a CEC interview, the Respondent admitted to deficiencies in internal oversight, including making an unsubstantiated accusation of payroll fraud against the Complainant without any corrective action taken, causing undue emotional distress and fear in the workplace.”

WHEREAS, Respondent accepted the Agreement on July 14, 2025, and the CEC ratified the Agreement on July 24, 2025, which concluded the CEC’s investigation into Petitioner’s complaint;

WHEREAS, the CEC concludes that the action of Respondent violates the Oath of Office he took on January 13, 2025, and warrants sanctions against him;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Rule 810(n) of the Rules of the Thirty-Sixth Legislature, a majority of the Committee on Ethical Conduct may recommend that the Legislature take certain actions against Respondent as a sanction for violating the Rules on Ethical Conduct;

WHEREAS, the Committee on Ethical Conduct recommends to the Thirty-Sixth Legislature that Respondent Senator at Large Angel L. Bolques, Jr., be suspended without pay for 30 working days and a letter of reprimand be issued to Respondent for violating Rule 102(c) of the Rules of the Thirty-Sixth Legislature of the Virgin Islands and the Code of Ethical Conduct; Now Therefore,

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:

SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature of the Virgin Islands finds that Senator at Large Angel L. Bolques, Jr. violated Rule 102(c) of the Rules of the Thirty-Sixth Legislature and the Legislature’s Code of Ethical Conduct.

(b) For violating his oath of office under Rule 102(c), Respondent Senator At-Large Angel L. Bolques, Jr. shall be suspended for a total of 30 working days effective August 18,

2025, of which 15 working days shall be held in abeyance. During the abeyance period, Respondent shall comply with the Rules of the Thirty-Sixth Legislature, including the Legislature's Code of Ethical Conduct. If Respondent violates any of the Legislature's Rules during the abeyance period, he shall immediately serve the remaining 15 working days of the suspension and may be subject to additional charges as deemed appropriate by the Legislature. The abeyance period shall expire on December 31, 2025.

(c) For violating his oath of office under Rule 102(c), the President of the Legislature shall issue a letter of reprimand to Senator at Large Angel L. Bolques, Jr., expressing the Legislature's disapproval of his conduct.

Thus passed by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands on August 14, 2025.

Witness our Hands and Seal of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands this 19th day of August, 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