

# ACT NO. 8 7 8 8

BILL NO. 35-0159

## THIRTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Regular Session

2023

An Act providing a lump-sum appropriation from the Indirect Cost Fund to the Office of Management and Budget, the Virgin Islands Division of Personnel, the Virgin Islands Department of Property and Procurement and the Virgin Islands Department of Finance for operating expenses for the fiscal year October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024; amending title 27, chapter 1, subchapter 1, Virgin Islands Code to add limited medical registration requirements for qualified interns, residents and fellows; appropriating \$500,000 to the Schneider Regional Medical Center for the Interventional Cardiology Program; amending Act No. 8681 regarding the election of and requirements for At-Large Delegates to the Sixth Constitutional Convention; amending title 3, chapter 5, subchapter 1, section 71b, Virgin Islands Code to require all oral and written communications to the public be in English and Spanish; amending title 30, chapter 1, section 1a, subsection, subsection (b) to require a public utility to communicate with ratepayers in English and Spanish; amending the Virgin Islands Ratepayers' Bill of Rights to prohibit the assessment of late charges on a ratepayer's utility bill in specific instances; appropriating \$50,000 to the Department of Public Works to construct a mausoleum to entomb the remains of former Governor Juan F. Luis; appropriating \$250,000 to the Department of Public Works to repair the Contentment Road on St. Croix; amending Act No. 8741 regarding the exchange of Whistling Cay, St. John and for other purposes

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*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:*

**SECTION 1.** The following sum, or so much of it as may be necessary, is appropriated from the Indirect Cost Fund to the Office of Management and Budget, the Virgin Islands Division of Personnel, the Virgin Islands Department of Property and Procurement and the Virgin Islands Department of Finance for operating costs for the fiscal year October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024.

<b>2098 INDIRECT COST FUND</b>	<b>FY 2024</b>
210 OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT & BUDGET	\$2,106,500
<b>TOTAL 210 OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT &amp; BUDGET</b>	<b>\$2,106,500</b>
220 DIVISION OF PERSONNEL	\$ 530,867

<b>TOTAL 220 DIVISION OF PERSONNEL</b>	<b>\$ 530,867</b>
390 DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE	\$ 108,500
<b>TOTAL 390 DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE</b>	<b>\$ 108,500</b>
600 DEPARTMENT OF PROPERTY & PROCUREMENT	\$ 185,000
<b>TOTAL 600 DEPARTMENT OF PROPERTY &amp; PROCUREMENT</b>	<b>\$ 185,000</b>
<b>TOTAL 2098 INDIRECT COST FUND</b>	<b>\$2,930,867</b>

**SECTION 2.** Title 27 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 1, subchapter 1 is amended by adding a section 5a. that reads as follows:

“§5a. Limited Medical Registration Requirements

(a) As used in this section:

(1) “Board” means the Virgin Islands Board of Medical Examiners.

(2) “Intern, resident, or fellow” means a physician in training in an accredited postgraduate training program.

(3) “Limited medical registration” means a certificate that entitles the holder to practice medicine in a hospital or other institution licensed in the Virgin Islands and designated on the certificate of limited registration, or outside such hospital or other institution to treat patients under the supervision of a duly licensed physician under section 5 of this subchapter, or in any hospital, institution, clinic or program outside of the Virgin Islands affiliated for training purposes with the territorial hospital, institution or clinic designated on such certificate, which affiliation is approved by the Board. In all cases, the practice of medicine under a limited medical registration shall be in accordance with regulations promulgated by the hospital, institution or other clinic designated on the certificate.

(b) Except for physicians licensed pursuant to section 5 of this subchapter, no person shall perform the duties of an intern, resident or fellow in the Virgin Islands without holding a limited medical registration certificate.

(c) Limited medical registration shall only be granted to individuals appointed as intern, resident or, fellow in a hospital licensed in the Virgin Islands, or other institution or clinic for the purpose of obtaining training in a medical program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, (ACGME), the American Osteopathic Association, (AOA), or other accrediting body approved by the Board, or to a fellow for the purpose of teaching, research and/or training in conjunction with a medical education program in a medical school accredited by the Liaison Committee for Medical Education (LCME) or by the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA).

(d) It shall be the responsibility of each hospital, clinic or other institution to submit, upon request, a list of affiliated hospitals, institutions, clinics with existing training programs for interns, residents or, fellows.

(e) Once a full license to practice medicine in the Virgin Islands has been granted, all concurrent limited medical registration privileges shall cease.

(f) Limited Medical registration under this section may be revoked at any time by the Board.

**SECTION 3.** The sum of \$500,000 is appropriated from the Health Revolving Fund in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, to the Schneider Regional Medical Center to assist in purchasing vital equipment, supplies, and staffing the Interventional Cardiology Program.

**SECTION 4.** Section 4 of Act No. 8681 is amended as follows:

(a) In subsection (a) by striking "five" and inserting "seven" and by striking the language after "resident"; and

(b) In subsection (e) by striking the language after "seek election".

**SECTION 5.** Title 3 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 5, subchapter 1, section 71b is amended by designating the existing language as subsection (a) and inserting subsection (b) to read as follows:

"(b) Every department or agency of the Government of the Virgin Islands must provide all oral or written communications to the public in both English and Spanish."

**SECTION 6.** Title 30, chapter 1, section 1a, subsection (b) of the Virgin Islands Code is amended by adding paragraph (14) to read:

"(14) Ratepayers have the right to have all communications from a public utility to be in both English and Spanish."

**SECTION 7.** Title 30 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 1, subchapter I, section 1a., subsection (b), paragraph (9) is amended after the word "discontinue" by inserting ", nor may late charges be assessed,".

**SECTION 8.** (a) The sum of \$50,000 is appropriated from the Indirect Cost Fund of the Treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands, in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, to the Virgin Islands Department of Public Works, for the construction of a mausoleum to entomb the remains of former Governor the late Juan Francisco Luis.

(b) The sum appropriated in subsection (a) remains available until expended.

**SECTION 9.** Act No. 8770 (Bill No. 35-0171) is amended in section 5, subsection (b) by adding paragraph (4) to read as follows:

"(4) Repair of Contentment Road, St. Croix, Virgin Islands - \$250,000".

**SECTION 10.** Act No. 8741 is amended by striking section 3 in its entirety and inserting a new section 3 that reads as follows:

“SECTION 3. The Government of the Virgin Islands may exchange the land in section 1, provided the use and public access to Whistling Cay and its waterway known as Fungi Passage remains consistent with the National Park Service Organic Act, 54 U.S.C. § 100101, and all applicable federal laws and regulations.”

Thus passed by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands on December 19, 2023.

Witness our Hands and Seal of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands this 9<sup>th</sup> day of January, A.D., 2024.

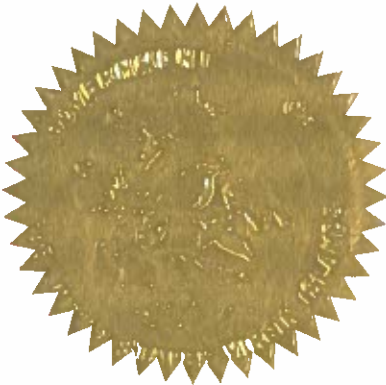


*Novelle E. Francis, Jr.*  
Novelle E. Francis, Jr.  
President

*Carla J. Joseph*  
Carla J. Joseph  
Secretary

**Bill No. 35-0159 is hereby approved.**

**Witness my hand and the Seal of the Government of the United States Virgin Islands at Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, this 12<sup>th</sup> day of January 2024 A.D.**



*Albert Bryan Jr.*  
Albert Bryan Jr.  
Governor