

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY, JUSTICE
AND PUBLIC SAFETY

BILL NO. 31-0130

Thirty-first Legislature of the Virgin Islands

June 16, 2015

An Act amending title 5 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 401 relating to the duties of the Bureau of Corrections, “The Correctional Workers Safety Act of 2015”

PROPOSED BY: Senator Kenneth L. Gittens

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:

SECTION 1. Title 5 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 401, section 4504 is amended by adding subsections (g), (h) and (i) that read as follows:

“(g) The Bureau shall provide secured storage areas on the outside grounds within the secured perimeter area of all institutions under its control for use by employees who are licensed to carry firearms.

(h) The Director of Corrections and the Commissioner of the Department of Human Services shall ensure that each prison and detention facility under their control provides a secure firearm storage at the facility who are licensed to carry a firearm for use by all persons employed by the Bureau at Youth Rehabilitation Center, or allow employees authorized to carry a firearm to store their firearm in a Bureau or Department-approved vehicle lockbox.

(i) Correctional officers employed in juvenile or adult medium or higher-security detention centers may carry non-lethal weapons, such as tasers, batons, pepper spray or other devices approved by the agency head upon certification.”

BILL SUMMARY

Section 1 of this bill requires the Bureau of Correction and the Department of Human Services, as well as other detention centers, to have secured firearm storage facilities for use by personnel authorized to carry firearms. Subsection (i) authorizes the officers working in medium security center or higher to carry approved non-lethal weapons inside of the institution upon certification.

BR15-0072/April 22, 2015/YLT