

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

05/07/2019-REPORTED OUT TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JUDICIARY

BILL NO. 33-0072

Thirty-Third Legislature of the Virgin Islands

May 1, 2019

An Act appropriating \$39,467,909 that was awarded to the Virgin Islands Medical Assistance Program as a result of a multi-year account reconciliation and review of several of the Territory's health care agencies to various governmental entities

PROPOSED BY: Senators Donna Frett-Gregory, Marvin A. Blyden,
Kenneth L. Gittens, and Athneil "Bobby" Thomas
Co-Sponsors: Allison L. DeGazon, Stedmann Hodge, Jr.,
and Javan E. James, Sr.

1 **WHEREAS**, the Virgin Islands Medical Assistance Program (VIMAP) was able to
2 claim retroactive federal funds as a result of a multi-year account reconciliation and review of
3 several of the Territory's health care agencies, resulting in the award of \$39,467,909 for
4 services and administration;

5 **WHEREAS**, the distribution of the VIMAP retroactive claim funds will occur as a
6 "one- time" appropriation to specified agencies, to remain available until expended;

7 **WHEREAS**, these funds will be utilized to increase the quality of health care and social
8 services offered to the residents of the Virgin Islands; Now, Therefore,

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

10 **SECTION 1.** The sum of \$39,467,909 from the retroactive claim funding received in
11 April 2019, or the reimbursement of federal Medicaid funding for the fiscal years ending

September 30, 2011, through September 30, 2013, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, as follows:

(a) The sum of \$8,710,649 to the Department of Labor for the payment of outstanding workers' compensation insurance premiums owed to the Workers' Compensation Administration by the Schneider Regional Medical Center in the amount of \$6,487,546 and by the Governor Juan F. Luis Hospital & Medical Center in the amount of \$2,223,103.

(b) The sum of \$9,903,746 to the Governor Juan F. Luis Hospital & Medical Center to be paid directly to the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority.

(c) The sum of \$4,312,454 to the Schneider Regional Medical Center to be paid directly to the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority.

(d) The sum of \$2,000,000 to the Virgin Islands Department of Health for behavioral health programs, to be used as follows:

(1) \$1,000,000 for the St. Thomas/St. John district; and

(2) \$1,000,000 for the St. Croix district.

(e) The sum of \$3,000,000 to the Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority for outstanding vendor payments.

(f) The sum of \$5,000,000 to Juan F. Luis Hospital & Medical Center to pay outstanding taxes owed to the Virgin Islands Bureau of Internal Revenue

(g) The sum of \$4,541,060 to the General Fund of the treasury of the Government of the Virgin Islands to assist in covering the cost of negotiated salary increases for the 2019 fiscal year.

(h) The sum of \$2,000,000.00 as follows:

(A) To the St. Croix district as follows:

(B) \$200,000 to the Department of Education for mental health services for students and staff;

(C) \$125,000 to the Department of Sports, Parks and Recreation for the purchase of garbage trucks;

(D) \$105,000 to Department of Human Services to purchase two vehicles for the Meals on Wheels program;

(E) \$150,000 to the Legislature of the Virgin Islands for a summer employment program; and

(F) \$420,000 to Bethlehem House to retrofit its building and to purchase equipment.

(2) To the St. Thomas-St. John district as follows:

(A) \$200,000 to the Department of Education for mental health services for students and staff;

(B) \$150,000 to the Department of Sports, Parks and Recreation for playground equipment for the Alvin McBean Ballpark;

(C) \$125,000 to the Department of Sports, Parks and Recreation for the purchase of a garbage truck and other equipment;

(D) \$150,000 to the Tax Study Commission;

(E) \$120,000 to the Eldra Schulerbrandt facility for the purchase of two passenger vans;

(F) \$105,000 to the Department of Human Services to purchase two vehicles for the Meals on Wheels program; and

(G) \$150,000 to the Legislature of the Virgin Islands for a youth summer employment program.

SECTION 2. The sums appropriated in Section 1 remain available until expended and are “one-time” non-recurring appropriations.

SECTION 3. Not later than September 30, 2019, the Virgin Islands Bureau of Internal Revenue shall make payments of not less than \$5,000,000 towards outstanding tax refunds.

1 **Bill Summary**

2 This Bill provides for the appropriation of \$39,467,909 to various governmental entities
3 and mandates that the Virgin Islands Bureau of Internal Revenue issue payments of not less
4 than \$5,000,000 of outstanding income tax refunds not later than September 30, 2019.

5 **BR19-0423/April 26, 2019/SLR/Reviewed by EEM**