



THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
GOVERNMENT HOUSE

**Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802
340-774-0001**

July 20, 2017

VIA MESSENGER

The Honorable Myron D. Jackson
Senate President
Thirty Second Legislature of the Virgin Islands
Capitol Building
St. Thomas, VI 00802

Re: Governor's Action on Bills numbered 32-0042, 32-0066, 32-0084, 32-0085, 32-0111, 32-0122, 32-0124 and 32-0125

Dear Mr. President:

I write to advise you that, pursuant to Section 9(d) of the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands of 1954 as amended, I have today acted on the following legislative bill:

I have approved Bill No. 32-0042, an act repealing title 22 Virgin Islands Code, section 1251(a) and adding chapter 14 entitled "The Virgin Islands Insurance Holding Company System Regulatory Act" to meet the accreditation standards established by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners and update the insurance laws of the Territory placing them on par with other United States jurisdictions, and providing greater and more effective protection to the policyholders of the Territory.

I have approved Bill No. 32-0084, an act amending title 19, Virgin Islands Code, chapter 31, section 723 relating to extending the time a person may be detained involuntarily for mental health treatment. This measure seeks to protect the rights of individuals to consent to treatment for his or her mental disorder. It further expands the reasons for the use of involuntary commitment to protect the mentally challenged individual and the public by adding a "need for treatment" standard for involuntary commitment. This bill will go a long way in addressing mental illness and the needs of the mentally ill in the Territory.

I have approved Bill No. 32-0085, an act amending title 19, Virgin Islands Code, chapter 31, section 722 relating to mental health emergency commitments by extending the time a person may be detained for treatment. In my prior veto of this measure, I stated "[w]hile I generally

support mandating stabilizing care, evaluation and treatment remediation, as well as the extension of maximum holding days to ten (10), extending the minimum holding days to a mandatory five-day 'emergency commitment' may place individuals who require a lesser period for stabilization as determined by a licensed medical practitioner to remain committed to adhere to the requirements of this bill." I am pleased to see that the Members of the Thirty-Second Legislature have incorporated my recommendation that a licensed medical practitioner determine the length of time for stabilization. This measure will aid in stabilizing care, evaluation and treatment remediation of individuals with mental illnesses subject to involuntary commitment proceedings.

I have approved Bill No. 32-0111, an act to amend title 1 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 11 to establish September as Virgin Islands Prostate and Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month and to require an annual proclamation by the Governor.

I have approved Bill No. 32-0122, an act approving the Lease Agreement between the Government of the Virgin Islands, through the Department of Property and Procurement, and Island Green Building Association, Inc.

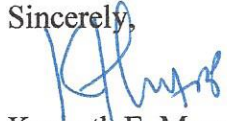
I have approved Bill No. 32-0124, an act approving the Lease Agreement between the Government of the Virgin Islands, through the Department of Property and Procurement on behalf of the Department of Agriculture and Cruzan Organix Farm, Inc.

I have approved Bill No. 32-0125, an act appropriating a sum not exceeding \$480,000 to purchase the real property identified in Act No. 7990, section 1 (a) to complete the Paul E. Joseph Stadium Project. This measure provides a source of funding for the purchase of real property identified in Section 1(a) of Act No. 7990 for the completion of the Paul E. Joseph Stadium Project. I am pleased to report that the Department of Property & Procurement has initiated purchase discussions with the owners of the properties. If the Government and owners are unable to arrive at a reasonable and fair market price for the properties within the next ten (10) days, I will instruct the Department of Justice to begin eminent domain proceedings to acquire the property so that we avoid any delays to the construction of the project.

I have vetoed Bill No. 32-0066, an act making an appropriation from the Anti-Litter and Beautification Fund to the Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority ("VIWMA") for the purchase of surveillance cameras to be installed at selected bin sites. I have been advised by VIWMA's Executive Director that the funds appropriated in this measure would be better used if they are used to construct new trash convenience centers so that VIWMA may remove more unsightly and unsanitary bins out of our communities. I am asking the Legislature to re-appropriate these funds to allow VIWMA to build the new centers.

As always, thank you for your continued work on behalf of the people of the Virgin Islands.

Sincerely,



Kenneth E. Mapp
Governor
Enclosures