

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HOSPITALS AND
HUMAN SERVICES

BILL NO. 31-0110

Thirty-first Legislature of the Virgin Islands

April 28, 2015

An Act providing for the temporary use by My Brother's Workshop of the Department of Human Services facility at Matricular No. 23-AA Estate Kingshill, St. Croix as a youth training center

PROPOSED BY: Senator Nereida Rivera-O'Reilly

1 **WHEREAS**, My Brothers Workshop is a non-profit Virgin Islands charitable
2 organization; and

3 **WHEREAS**, My Brother's Workshops mission is to provide hope, faith and
4 purpose to at-risk and high- risk youth by providing mentoring, counseling, education paid
5 job training and job placement; and

6 **WHEREAS**, My Brother's Workshop began as a personal crusade by its founder
7 Scott Bradley to provide training in the construction trades of carpentry, electrical and
8 plumbing to help young men he encountered in St. Thomas who were either school drop
9 outs, drug dealers, gang members or a combination thereof; and

10 **WHEREAS**, as a result of Mr. Bradley's perseverance and the support of the

11 St. Thomas community over the last eight years, My Brother's Workshop has blossomed
12 into an organization that has assisted more than 400 young men and women, placing them
13 in jobs or returning them to an academic environment to further their education; and

14 **WHEREAS**, through this collective, collaborative effort, My Brother's Workshop
15 has bragging rights to an 83% success rate in the revitalization of the minds and spirits of
16 its clientele; and

17 **WHEREAS**, My Brother's Workshop in furtherance of its motto "Tools That Build
18 Hope" has established a crew of trained tradesmen and women who are hired by both the
19 public and private sector to custom build furniture as well as maintain and repair buildings
20 and additionally has established two retail establishments; a furniture store and a café
21 bakery; and

22 **WHEREAS**, since My Brother's Workshop's excellent track record is now firmly
23 established on St. Thomas, its board has embraced the idea of expanding its services to St.
24 Croix by establishing a St. Croix branch; and

25 **WHEREAS**, in an effort to replicate the services provided by My Brother's Table
26 on St. Croix, a volunteer steering committee was established and has been working
27 diligently over the last four months to assess the needs of the program for expansion to its
28 shores; and

29 **WHEREAS**, the St. Croix Steering Committee has learned that there is an available
30 facility on the Kingshill Human Services Complex which has not been used by the
31 Department for several years and is in need of repair; and

32 **WHEREAS**, the Kingshill location is mid-island and easily accessible by public
33 transportation; and

34 **WHEREAS**, My Brother's Workshop, St. Croix needs a central, accessible
35 location in which it will provide training and life skill services to youth from throughout
36 St. Croix; and

37 **WHEREAS**, construction trades training in carpentry, electrical and plumbing
38 would comprise the basic curriculum of My Brother's Workshop, St. Croix; and

39 **WHEREAS**, the facility on the Kingshill Human Services Complex would be ideal
40 for use as the start-up location for My Brother's Workshop, St. Croix; and

41 **WHEREAS**, while using the location the skills of the trainees under the direction
42 of their trainers will be employed to refurbish the Kingshill building based upon the future
43 needs of the Department of Humans Services; and

44 **WHEREAS**, ultimately, My Brother's Workshop, St. Croix will secure a
45 permanent location, the use of the Kingshill facility will be returned refurbished for use
46 by the Department of Human Services; and

47 **WHEREAS**, this collaboration will fill a severe dearth of skills training on St.
48 Croix; Now Therefore,

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

50 **SECTION 1.** The Department of Human Services shall permit My Brother's Workshop
51 to use and occupy its Kingshill facility located at Matricular No. 23-AA Estate Kingshill King
52 Quarter, St. Croix, Virgin Brother's Workshop as a youth training center for a period of three years
53 in exchange for the refurbishing of the site according to specifications to be provided by the
54 Department of Human Services.

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BILL SUMMARY

This bill provides for the temporary use of the Department of Human Services' Kingshill facility by My Brother's Workshop for use as a youth training center in exchange for refurbishing the facility.

BR15-0583/April 23, 2015/YLT