



Legislature Of The Virgin Islands

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Press Release

June 25, 2021

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SENATOR JOSEPH'S BILL TO ENACT THE UNIFORM ELECTRONIC LEGAL MATERIAL ACT MOVES ONE STEP CLOSER TO ADOPTION IN THE VI

ST. THOMAS, USVI – Senator Carla Joseph, the prime sponsor of Bill 34-0034 to enact the Uniform Electronic Legal Material Act in the Virgin Islands, is pleased to announce that the Bill has successfully move forward from the Committee on Rules and Judiciary to the Committee on the Whole for final consideration by the 34th Legislature of the Virgin Islands.

During Friday's Rules Committee meeting, the VI Bar Association and the Judicial Branch of the Virgin Islands submitted testimony by letter for the record. On behalf of the Bar Association, its President, Charlotte K. Perrell, entered support of the Bill. The other testimony read into the record came from the Administrator of Courts Regina de Chabert Petersen. The unified Judicial Branch of the Virgin Islands recommended an amendment to address its concerns.

Senator Carla Joseph said, "The time has come for us to change the playing field to ensure accessibility to justice by providing easier access to laypersons and the legal community."

"This legislation broadens the horizons to accessibility as we have migrated to electronic use of devices for business as we have seen during this pandemic. I would like to thank my colleagues and the legal community for their support of this measure to move the Virgin Islands into the modern era," the Senator concluded.

Initial discussions of the Bill within the Committee on Government Operations and Consumer Protection, chaired by Senator Carla Joseph, also garnered support from Attorney Tom Bolt, Chair of the U.S. Virgin Islands Law Commission, Attorney Libby Synder, Legislative Counsel of the Uniform Law Commission, Troy de Chabert-Schuster, State Director AARP of the Virgin Islands, and Leslie Street, Director of the Wolf Law Library.

Senator Genevieve R. Whitaker also sponsors the Bill. Finally, the Senator thanked all of the members of the Committee on Rules and Judiciary for unanimous support of the measure.

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