

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Senate Fails To Override Mapp Veto On Bill Seeking To Limit Salaries Of Cabinet Members

VIC News / **Published On September 23, 2015 12:29 PM /**

Ernice Gilbert **September 23, 2015**



ST. CROIX -- Governor Kenneth Mapp in August vetoed section 9 of bill No. 31-0149, a amendment [proposed by Senator Myron Jackson](#) and supported by Democrats, that took away the pay raises Mapp gave to his then-cabinet nominees that were capped, after an agreement between the two branches of government, at \$105,000, and set them to the amount each position was paid on December 31, 2014.

The amendment was added during a [protracted session](#) at the Earl B. Ottley Legislative Hall on July 30, where the Senate took action on a myriad of bills. Members of the body had contended that giving any pay raises at a time when the government was passing legislation to borrow monies in an attempt to keep itself afloat, was an ill-thought-out

idea.

Mapp, however, [disagreed](#).

“I don’t believe that this veto requires much discussion from me,” said the governor in a note accompanying his veto. “My position on the issue of salaries for my cabinet is a matter of public record.”

And at a legislative session at the Earl B. Ottley Legislative Hall on Tuesday, senators tried but failed to override the veto, which leaves the salaries capped at \$105,000.

According to law, the Senate needs 10 affirmative votes for a successful override; but at yesterday’s session, only 8 voted in favor of the override.

The roll call went as follows:

Marvin Blydin: **No** (*Blyden voted yes at the Wednesday, July 30th session*)

Jean Forde: **No** (*Forde voted yes at the Wednesday July 30th session*)

Novelle Francis: **Yes** (*consistent yes vote*)

Kenneth Gittens: **No** (*Gittens voted yes at the Wednesday, July 30th session*)

Clifford Graham: **No** (*Graham voted yes at the Wednesday, July 30th session*)

Justin Harrigan, Sr.: **Yes** (*consistent yes vote*)

Myron Jackson: **Yes** (*consistent yes vote*)

Neville James: **Yes** (*consistent yes vote*)

Almando “Rocky” Liburd: **No** (*consistent no vote*)

Terrence “Positive” Nelson: **No** (*consistent no vote*)

Nereida “Nellie” O’Reilly: **No** (*consistent no vote*)

Tregenza Roach: **Yes** (*consistent yes vote*)

Sammuel Sanes: **Yes** (*consistent yes vote*)

Kurt Vialet: **Yes** (*consistent yes vote*)

Janet Millin Young: **Yes** (*consistent yes vote*)

The Senator also took action on an array of board and commission nominees, including the following: