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\$924 Million Budget For Fiscal Year 2022 Set to be Forwarded to Governor Well in Advance of Deadline

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Kyle Murphy **September 20, 2021**

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After months of hearings and crunching numbers, the 34th Legislature approved budget bills that make up the \$924,198,794 Fiscal Year 2022 budget during a Committee of the Whole meeting Friday. The measures were on course to be forwarded to Governor Albert Bryan for his signature.

Chairman of the Finance Committee, Sen. Kurt Violet, explained that the initial budget came to the Senate at \$973 million, however it was revised to \$945 million when it was presented by the Office of Management and Budget. “In being conservative, when we completed the mark-up process we came in at \$924,198,794... That is making sure that all the positions are funded; it also funds a number of vacant positions and during the markup we were also able to enhance certain departments.”

Senator Janelle Sarauw highlighted some funded vacancies. "We were able to fund vacancies in [the Bureau of Internal Revenue], Property Taxes, Human Services, Education and other critical vacancies," she said.

Mr. Violet also stated that the government [would absorb the cost](#) of the increase in healthcare for government employees for the third straight year.

"They don't even realize," he said of the gov't employees. "They see their rate stay the same but the rate is the same because the Senate has absorbed the cost. If we did not do that, health insurance from three years ago would have increased... You would be paying an extra \$160 more every month," Mr. Violet said.

The senator explained that health insurance cost increased by \$5.5 million and that the Legislature only needed to appropriate approximately \$800,000 after offsetting the cost by using \$4.7 million for a Premium Reserve Fund, an option that was presented [last week](#).

An example of a department that was enhanced during the markup process was the V.I. Fire Service. The Senate was able to appropriate \$1 million toward the first fireboat in the Virgin Islands, according to Mr. Violet.

Senate President Donna Frett-Gregory stated, "Today is the 17th of September and we wanted to make sure we put a budget before the people — not on September 30th but in mid-September. It shows that we are very serious about the work that we are doing here as legislators."

All senators thanked the Committee on Finance and everyone involved for their work in passing the 2022 Fiscal Year budget.

The following are the bills that make up the Fiscal Year 2022 Budget:

- Bill 34-0134: An act ratifying the third renewal agreement for group medical health insurance, and the third renewal agreement for group dental insurance between the government of the Virgin Islands and CIGNA Health and Life Insurance Company; the second renewal agreement for vision insurance and the first renewal of agreement for group life and accidental death and dismemberment insurance between the government of the Virgin Islands and the Standard Insurance Company
- Bill 34-0109: An act providing an appropriation from the General Fund of the Government of the Virgin Islands for the operation of the Government of the Virgin Islands during the fiscal year October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022
- Bill 34-0106: FY21 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET An act amending Act No. 8365, as amended by Act No. 8411; and Act No. 8451; amending Act No. 8451, Section 2(A); amending Act No. 8347, Section 1, relating to the fiscal year 2021 operating budget for the Government of the Virgin Islands, to appropriate \$24,423,321 to several departments and agencies to pay outstanding obligations; and providing for other related purposes
- Bill 34-0110: An act providing an appropriation for the operation of the Judicial Branch of the Government of the Virgin Islands during the fiscal year October 1, 2021 to September

30, 2022

- Bill 34-0111: An act providing an appropriation for the operation of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands during fiscal year October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022
- Bill 34-0112: An act providing an appropriation for salaries and expenses of the Board of Elections and the Office of the Supervisor of Elections during the fiscal year October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022
- Bill 34-0113: An act providing an appropriation from the Anti-Litter and Beautification Fund to the Waste Management Authority and the Department of Public Works for operating expenses during the fiscal year October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022
- Bill 34-0114: An act providing an appropriation for the salaries and expenses of the University of the Virgin Islands during the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022 and for other purposes
- Bill 34-0115: An act providing an appropriation for the operating expenses of the Virgin Islands Board of Education from the General Fund during the fiscal year October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022
- Bill 34-0116: An act providing an appropriation from the Business and Commercial Properties Revolving Fund of the Government of the Virgin Islands to the Department of Property and Procurement for operating expenses during the fiscal year October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022
- Bill 34-0117: An act providing an appropriation for the operating expenses of the Virgin Islands Career and Technical Education Board from the General Fund of the Government of the Virgin Islands during the fiscal year October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022
- Bill 34-0118: An act providing an appropriation from the Caribbean Basin Initiative Fund for the year October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022
- Bill 34-0119: An act providing an appropriation from the government Insurance Fund of the Government of the Virgin Islands to the Department of Labor and the Department of Finance for operating expenses during fiscal year October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022
- Bill 34-0120: An act providing an appropriation from the Health Revolving Fund for fiscal year October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022
- Bill 34-0121: An act providing an appropriation for the operating expenses of the Virgin Islands Hospital and Health Facilities Corporation from the General Fund of the

Government of the Virgin Islands during the fiscal year October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022

- Bill 34-0122: An act providing for the lump sum appropriation from the Indirect Cost Fund for salaries, operating expenses and other purposes of the Office of Management and Budget, the Division of Personnel, the Department of Property and Procurement, and the Department of Finance for the fiscal year October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022
- Bill 34-0123: An act providing an appropriation for the operating expenses of the Virgin Islands Office of the Inspector General from the General Fund of the Government of the Virgin Islands during the fiscal year October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022
- Bill 34-0124: An act providing an appropriation from the Internal Revenue Matching Fund for the fiscal year October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022
- Bill 34-0125: An act providing an appropriation in the sum of \$900,000 from the Virgin Islands Lottery as a contribution to the General Fund for the fiscal year October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022
- Bill 34-0126: An act providing an appropriation for the operating expenses of the Public Employees Relations Board and the Labor Management Committee for the fiscal year October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022
- Bill 34-0127: An act providing an appropriation for operating expenses of the Waste Management Authority from the Sewer System Fund of the Government of the Virgin Islands for the fiscal year October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022
- Bill 34-0128: An act providing an appropriation to the Virgin Islands Taxicab Commission for the fiscal year October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022
- Bill 34-0129: An act providing an appropriation from the Tourism Advertising Revolving Fund to the Office of Management and Budget, the Virgin Islands Police Department, the Department of Public Works, the Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority, and the Department of Tourism during the fiscal year October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022
- Bill 34-0130: An act providing an appropriation for the sum of \$11,000,000 from the Transportation Trust Fund as a contribution to the General Fund for the fiscal year October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022
- Bill 34-0131: An act providing an appropriation for the operating expenses of the Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority from the General Fund of the Government of the Virgin Islands during the fiscal year October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022

- Bill 34-0132: An act providing an appropriation to the Public Services Commission for the fiscal year October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022 for operating expenses
- Bill 34-0133: An act providing an appropriation for the operating expenses of the Virgin Islands Board of Nurse Licensure from the General Fund during the fiscal year October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022
- Bill 34-0136: An act providing an appropriation for the sum of \$16,300,000 from the Virgin Islands Insurance Guaranty Fund as a contribution to the General Fund for the fiscal year October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022
- Bill 34-0137: An act amending Virgin Islands Code, Title 22, Chapter 10, Section 237(A)(3)(A) and Title 33, Chapter 111, Section 3061 relating to the balance in the Insurance Guaranty Fund to amend the currently required \$30,000,000 amount which is set to increase to \$50,000,000 on September 30, 2022 to \$40,000,000