

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY, JUSTICE
AND PUBLIC SAFETY

BILL NO. 32-0028

Thirty-Second Legislature of the Virgin Islands

February 23, 2017

An Act amending title 23 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 19, subchapter I, section 1508 relating to the duties of the Adjutant General requiring the Adjutant General to administer the youth About Face and the adult Forward March programs

PROPOSED BY: Senators Kurt A. Vialet and Brian A. Smith

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

2 **SECTION 1.** Title 23 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 19, subchapter I, section 1508,
3 is amended by adding subsections (d) and (e) to read as follows:

4 “(d) Subject to annual appropriations, the Adjutant General shall establish and
5 administer Youth About Face programs. The program must:

6 (1) operate as a summer and year-round after-school life preparation
7 program for economically disadvantaged and at-risk youths from 13-17 years of
8 age;

9 (2) provide schoolwork assistance, focusing on the skills needed to
10 master basic high school competencies and functional life skills, including teaching
11 students to work effectively in groups;

12 (3) provide basic instruction in computer skills;

13 (4) teach basic problem-solving, decision making, and reasoning skills;

1 (5) provide instruction on how the business world and free enterprise
2 work through computer simulations;

3 (6) training in basic skills that businesses require for employment
4 consideration; and

5 (7) teach home finance and budgeting and other daily living skills.

6 (e) Subject to annual appropriations, the Adjutant General shall establish and
7 administer Forward March job-readiness programs for economically disadvantaged young
8 adults ages 18-29 who are directed to Forward March by the Department of Labor. The
9 Forward March program must:

10 (1) provide training on topics that directly relate to the skills required
11 for real-world success;

12 (2) emphasize functional life skills, computer literacy, interpersonal
13 relationships, critical thinking skills, business skills, pre-employment and work
14 maturity skills, job-search skills and job-specific skills;

15 (3) explore careers activities, including how to be a successful and
16 effective employee;

17 (4) provide extensive opportunities for participants to practice generic
18 job skills in a supervised work setting; and

19 (5) upon completion of the program, return participants to the
20 Department of Labor for placement in the job placement pool.”

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BILL SUMMARY

23 This bill amends title 23 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 19, subchapter I, section 1508
24 by requiring the Adjutant General to administer the youth About Face and the adult
25 Forward March programs. About Face is a summer and year-round after-school life

1 preparation program for economically disadvantaged and at-risk youths from 13-17 years
2 of age. Forward March is a job-readiness program for economically disadvantaged young
3 adults ages 18-29 who are directed to Forward March by Department of Labor.

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5 **BR17-0291/January 31, 2017/GC**

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