



The Legislature of the Virgin Islands

#100 Lagoon Homes Ste. 2
Frederiksted, U.S. Virgin Islands 00840-3912

Office of the Legal Counsel

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July 27, 2009

The Honorable Wayne A. G. James
Senator
28th Legislature of the Virgin Islands
No. 100 Lagoon Homes
Frederiksted, St. Croix
U.S. Virgin Islands 00840

RE: BR09-0584— An Act amending 3 V.I.C., chapter 19, to create the Centennial Commission

Dear Senator James:

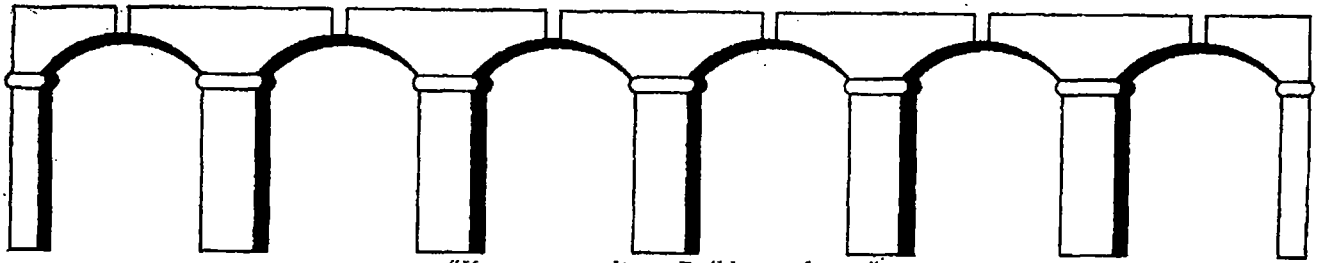
Enclosed for your review is the original draft and sponsor sheets for the above-referenced bill request. If you have any changes or corrections, return the blue copy with your changes or corrections to our office for further processing. If the bill meets your satisfaction, please sign and secure the signatures of those senators that wish to sponsor or co-sponsor your request and return the blue copy to our office for further processing.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Yvonne Tharpes".

Yvonne Tharpes
Deputy Chief Legal Counsel



"Know your culture. Build your future"

Legislature of the Virgin Islands

WAYNE A. G. JAMES

Senator, 28th Legislature
Senate Liaison to the White House

COMMITTEES:

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Appropriations & Budget

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• Housing, Sports & Veterans Affairs
• Financial Services, Infrastructure & Consumer Affairs
• Public Safety, Homeland Security & Justice

TO: Members of the 28th Legislature

FROM: Wayne A.G. James

RE: BR. No. 09-0584, an Act amending 3 V.I.C. chapter 19, to create the Centennial Commission

DATE: July 27, 2009

BR. No. 09-0584, an Act amending 3 V.I.C. chapter 19, to create the Centennial Commission, endeavors to recognize the tremendous economic opportunities which will become available to the Virgin Islands in the 17-month-period surrounding the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the transfer of the Virgin Islands from the Kingdom of Denmark to the United States of America. With proper advance planning and funding, the territory could position itself as the focal point of the U.S. and Scandinavia in the year 2017. In addition, a host of income-generating events could be planned and organized under the auspices of the Commission and the Department of Tourism: official visits of the American First Family and the Danish Royal Family; official visits of governors of the 50 U.S. states and Danish Parliament; recognition of and visits from the descendants of the Danish West Indies colonial families; heightened relationships between the Virgin Islands Friends of Denmark and the Danish West Indies Society; official recognition of the peoples of West Africa and their contributions to the Virgin Islands; reestablishment of the territory's historical connection to Ireland and the role of the Irish in the colonial era of the Danish West Indies; recognition of the Moravian faith and its role in the education of the enslaved population during the Danish era; artistic exchanges(in the visual and performing arts) involving the United States, Denmark, and the Virgin Islands; sporting and cultural events involving the U.S. Denmark, and the Virgin Islands, etc.

Between August 2016 and December 2017, thousands of people could be enticed to our shores, resulting in millions of dollars being spent in the territory. I encourage your support of this measure.

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

PRIMARY SPONSOR SHEET

BR. NO. 09-0584

PRIMARY SPONSOR: Senator Wayne A.G. James

SUBJECT MATTER:

An Act amending 3 V.I.C., chapter 19, to create the Centennial Commission

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AFTER YOU HAVE REVIEWED AND APPROVED THE ATTACHED BLUE COPY. PLEASE SIGN BELOW AND RETURN TO OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL. A REQUEST FOR CO-SPONSORSHIP SHEET IS ALSO ATTACHED. IF YOU OBTAIN CO-SPONSOR SIGNATURES. PLEASE RETURN THAT SHEET WITH THIS FORM AND THE BLUE COPY.


PRIMARY SPONSOR

**TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL
REQUEST FOR CO-SPONSORSHIP**

BR. NO: 09-0584 **PRIMARY SPONSOR:** Senator Wayne A.G. James

SUBJECT MATTER:

An Act amending 3 V.I.C., chapter 19, to create the Centennial Commission

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PLEASE INDICATE YOUR DESIRE TO CO-SPONSOR THE ATTACHED BILL BY SIGNING BELOW YOUR NAME ON THIS FORM. YOUR NAME WILL NOT BE ADDED, AS A CO-SPONSOR, UNLESS YOU SIGN THIS FORM.

CO-SPONSORS

1. Craig W. Barshinger	9. Usie R. Richards
2. Adlah "Foncie" Donastorg	10. Nereida Rivera-O'Reilly
3. Carlton "Ital" Dowe	11. Samuel Sanes
4. Louis Patrick Hill	12. Patrick Simeon Sprauve
5. Neville A. James	13. Michael Thurland
6. Wayne A. G. James	14. Celestino A. White, Sr.
7. Shawn-Michael Malone	15. Alvin L. Williams, Jr.
8. Terrence "Positive" Nelson	

BILL NO. _____

Twenty-Eighth Legislature Of The Virgin Islands

An Act amending 3 V.I.C., chapter 19, to create the Centennial Commission

PROPOSED BY: Senator Wayne A.G. James

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

2 SECTION 1. Title 3 V.I.C., chapter 19, section 338, is amended by inserting subsections (a),
3 (b), and (c) to read as follows:

4 (a) There is hereby created within the Office of the Commissioner of Tourism a special and
5 temporary commission known as the Centennial Commission ("the Commission") for the purpose of
6 formulating plans and making preparations to commemorate and celebrate the 100th anniversary in the
7 year 2017 of the transfer of the Virgin Islands from Denmark to the United States of America.

8 (b) The Commission shall be composed of five residents of St. Croix, five residents of St.
9 Thomas and three members from St. John all of whom shall be appointed by the Governor. The
10 Commission shall choose its own Chairman and each member shall be entitled to one vote; a quorum

1 must be present to constitute a valid action by the Commission. All members of the Commission shall
2 serve without compensation but shall be entitled to reimbursement for all reasonable travel and other
3 expenses as may be authorized by the Commissioner of Tourism.

4 (c) The Commission shall exist until the earliest of the following occurs:

5 (1) the Commission's purpose under subsection (a) has been accomplished;

6 (2) the Commission is divested of its functions by law; or

7 (3) the Commission is extinguished by law.

8 **SECTION 2.** Title 33, chapter 111, Virgin Islands Code is amended by adding an appropriately
9 numbered new section to read as follows:

10 (a) There is hereby created within the Treasury of the Virgin Islands a separate and distinct fund
11 known as the Centennial Special Fund for the purpose of facilitating the formulation of plans and
12 preparations to commemorate and celebrate the 100th anniversary in the year 2017 of the transfer of the
13 Virgin Islands from Denmark to the United States of America, of which the commemorative and
14 celebratory events shall commence on or before August 4, 2016 and terminate on December 31, 2017.
15 The Fund shall be administered by the Commissioner of the Department of Finance, and no amounts
16 therein shall be available for expenditure except as provided in this section and when authorized by the
17 Commissioner of the Department of Tourism who must establish policies for the expenditures of monies
18 contained in the Fund.

19 (b) There is appropriated from the General Fund the sum of \$10,000,000 in the fiscal year ending
20 September 30, 2009 for the purposes set forth in subsection (a); provided, however, that notwithstanding
21 2 V.I.C. 26 (c), the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall allot funds in installments of
22 \$500,000 and \$1,000,000 and the total appropriation must be funded by or before September 30, 2013.
23 Any unobligated or unused balance shall be returned to the General Fund of the Virgin Islands.

Bill Summary

1
2 Section 1 of this bill seeks to establish the Centennial Commission. Internal subsection (a) of this
3 bill provides for the establishment the Centennial Commission and indicates its purpose.

4 Internal subsection (b) provides for the composition of the Commission's members, the manner of
5 selection of members, residency requirements for members as well as provisions for voting and a quorum
6 requirement for valid Commission actions. Lastly, the subsection contains compensation and
7 reimbursement provisions.

8 Internal Subsection (c) establishes certain events which terminate the Commission's existence.

9 Section 2 of the Bill seeks to establish the Centennial Special Fund. Internal Subsection (a)
10 provides for the establishment of the Fund, its purpose, the manner in which, and by whom, the Fund will
11 be administered.

12 Internal Subsection (b) provides for a \$10,000,000 appropriation in the 2009 fiscal year from the
13 General Fund to effectuate the Fund's purposes as well as the return of any unobligated and unused
14 balances to the General Fund. It also provides, that notwithstanding 2 V.I.C. 26 (c), the Director of the
15 Office of Management and Budget shall allot funds in installments of \$500,000 and \$1,000,000 and that
16 the total appropriation must be funded by or before September 30, 2013.