

BILL NO. 31-0074

Thirty-first Legislature of the Virgin Islands

March 26, 2015

An Act to allow for sentence reduction for successful completion of academic or vocational training while imprisoned

PROPOSED BY: Senator Neredia Rivera-O'Reilly

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

2 **SECTION 1.** Title 5 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 405, section 4571 is amended
3 by designating the existing language as subsection (a) and adding subsection (b) that
4 reads as follows;

5 “(b) A person convicted and sentenced to confinement for more than one year
6 shall receive a reduction of sentence as follows:

7 (1)(A) If the person has not graduated from an accredited high school and
8 obtained a high school diploma or has not obtained a General Educational
9 Development Certificate (GED) before being confined, upon successful
10 completion of a GED while confined, evidenced by a certificate from a
11 recognized GED program, the person’s sentence must be reduced by three
12 months.

1 (B) for obtaining a two year degree (Associate Degree) from an
2 accredited college or university the person's sentence must be reduced by six
3 months.

4 (C) for obtaining a four-year degree (Bachelors Degree) from an
5 accredited college or university the person's sentence must be reduced by twelve
6 months'.

7 (D) for completion of drug and rehabilitation programs offered by the
8 confining institution his sentence shall be reduced by three weeks'.

9 (E) for a technical or vocational certificate from a recognized
10 institution approved by the confining institution his sentence may be reduced for
11 not more than eight months at the discretion of the institution and approval of the
12 parole board.

13 (F) A person confined to an institution by a court of the Virgin Islands
14 for ten years or more and the person has worked outside of the institution
15 performing duties for a government department or agency for more than one year
16 and has no administrative infractions outside of the institution or disciplinary
17 charges inside of the institution, may be reduced for not more than six months at
18 the discretion of the institution and approval of the parole board.

19 (2) The reductions in sentence under this subsection are separate and
20 apart from those in subsection (a) and once earned, may not be forfeited except
21 for the commission of a felony while confined.”

22 **BILL SUMMARY**

23 This Bill amends title 5 Virgin Islands Code, section 4571 to offer incentives to
24 incarcerated persons to pursue education of higher learning and to curtail idle time at the
25 confining institution.
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