

BILL NO. 30-0496

Thirtieth Legislature of the Virgin Islands

September 25, 2014

An Act authorizing the appropriation of the sum of \$2,000,000.00 to the Department of Education from the Virgin Islands Education Initiative Fund for the purchase textbooks for the 2014-15 school year, to be available until expended and authorizing the allocation of monies from the Fund to purchase textbooks at the end of each fiscal year

PROPOSED BY: Senators Janette Millin Young and Kenneth L. Gittens
Co-sponsor: Senator Myron D. Jackson

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

2 **WHEREAS**, the Department of Education is in critical need of the sum of
3 \$2,000,000.00 to purchase textbooks for the subject matter areas to include English
4 Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, and Science for students in the Virgin
5 Islands Public School System in the District of St. Croix and the District of St.
6 Thomas/St. John; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the appropriation of the sum of \$2,000,000.00 for the fiscal year
8 2014 to be available until expended will assist the Department in carrying its fundamental
9 obligations to promote the cause of education, and achieve a high level of general
10 education throughout the Virgin Islands; Now Therefore,

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Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding the limitations on the use of funds prescribed in title 33 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 111, section 3093, the sum of \$2,000,000.00 is appropriated in the fiscal year 2014, from the Virgin Islands Education Initiative Fund to the Department of Education for the purpose of purchasing textbooks. A “textbook” means (1) any version of a book including hard covered or paperback books, manuals, and workbooks; and (2) any courseware or other instructional materials including electronic textbooks, on-line technologies, CD-ROMS, digital applications or any other format that is used to contribute to the learning process of students.

SECTION 2. The sum appropriated in Section 1 remains available until expended.

SECTION 3. Title 33 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 111, subtitle III, section 3093 is amended by adding subsections (o) and (p) to read as follows:

“(o) Except as provided otherwise in this section, the Department of Education may use 80% of the annual balance at the end of September 30th of each fiscal year, after funds have been utilized for public school and public adult education allocations, for textbooks and textbook-related purposes. A “textbook” means (1) any version of a book including hard covered or paperback books, manuals, and workbooks; and (2) any courseware or other instructional materials including electronic textbooks, on-line technologies, CD-ROMS, digital applications or any other format that is used to contribute to the learning process of students.

“(p) The sums allocated pursuant to subsection (o) remain available until expended.”

Bill Summary

The bill provides for the appropriation of \$2,000,000.00 from the Virgin Islands Education Initiative Fund to the Department of Education for the purchase of textbooks from the fiscal year 2014 budget to be available to until expended and provides for an allocation to the Department of Education of 80% of the balance in the Fund at the end of each fiscal year for the purchase of textbooks.

BR14-1659/September 24, 2014/SLR