



THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
GOVERNMENT HOUSE

Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802
340-774-0001

March 17, 2014

VIA MESSENGER

The Honorable Shawn Michael Malone
President
Thirtieth Legislature of the Virgin Islands
Capitol Building
St. Thomas, VI 00802

Re: Governor's Action on Bill number 30-0318

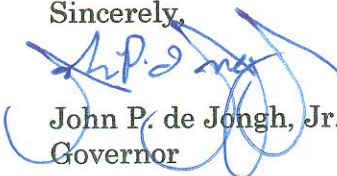
Dear Senator Malone:

I write to advise you that, pursuant to Section 9(d) of the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands of 1954 as amended, I have today acted on Bill numbered 30-0318.

It is altogether fitting and proper that the erroneous withholding by the Government Employees Retirement System ("GERS" or the "System") should be rectified promptly and by the payment of a reasonable amount of interest on the monies withheld. However, to be equitable, and given its annual deficit, GERS should pay no more than the regular rate of interest the law requires to be applied to other refunds, neither less than two (2) percent nor more than four (4) percent. *See V.I. Code Ann. tit. 3, §702(k)*. Moreover, I am advised by GERS that to achieve the ninety (90) day turnaround for processing the refunds as set forth in Section 3, significant overtime costs will be incurred. To avoid this unnecessary expense, more time should be provided to the System. I encourage the Thirtieth Legislature to consider making the requisite changes in this measure at the earliest available opportunity as you also consider my submission of the pension reform legislation.

As always, I thank you and the members of the Thirtieth Legislature for your vigilance and concern over the pension system of the United States Virgin Islands and look forward to working with you as we address its sustainability for years to come.

Sincerely,



John P. de Jongh, Jr.
Governor

Enclosures