

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT

05/23/2013 AMENDED AND REPORTED OUT TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JUDICIARY

BILL NO. 30-0011

Thirtieth Legislature of the Virgin Islands

March 6, 2013

An Act amending 17 V.I.C., chapter 5, relating to education and establishing a dual credit program between the University of the Virgin Islands and the Department of Education for high school students in the Virgin Islands

PROPOSED BY: Senators Terrence “Positive” Nelson and Tregenza A. Roach
Co-sponsor: Janette Millin Young

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

2 **SECTION 1.** Title 17 V.I.C., chapter 5, is amended by re-designating the existing section
3 41d as 41e and inserting a new section 41d to read as follows:

4 “§ 41d. Dual Credit program authorized; definition; eligibility; costs and fees; rules;
5 evaluation

6 (a) The Department of Education and the University of the Virgin Islands are
7 authorized to establish a Dual Credit program. As used in this section, “Dual Credit Program”
8 means a program that allows high school students to enroll in college-level courses offered by the

University of the Virgin Islands that may be academic or career-technical but not remedial or developmental, and simultaneously to earn credit toward high school graduation and a post-secondary degree or certificate.

(b) To be eligible to participate in the Dual Credit program, the student shall:

(1) except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, be enrolled in high school in one-half or more of the minimum course requirements approved by the Department of Education and/or the Board of Education for high school students; and

(2) obtain permission from a school counselor or the school principal and shall meet the eligibility requirements set forth by the University of the Virgin Islands prior to enrolling in a dual credit course.

(c) A student who has met the eligibility criteria provided for in subsection (b) of this section in a fall or spring semester, and who has not graduated or earned a general equivalency diploma (G.E.D.), or its equivalent, may take courses for dual credit during the immediately succeeding summer semester.

(d) The school that the student attends shall pay the costs of the required textbooks and other course supplies for the post secondary course that the student is enrolled in through purchase arrangements with the bookstore at the University of the Virgin Islands or other cost-efficient methods. The student shall return the textbooks and unused course supplies to the school when the student completes the course or withdraws from the course.

(e) The University of the Virgin Islands Board of Education and the Department of Education are authorized to adopt and promulgate rules to implement a dual credit program that specify:

(1) Post secondary courses that are eligible for dual credit;

(2) Conditions that apply, including the following:

(A) The required academic standing and conduct of students enrolled in dual credit course;

(B) The semesters in which dual credit courses may be taken;

(C) The nature of high school credit earned;

(D) Any caps on the number of courses, location of courses and provision of transcripts; and

(E) An appeals process for a student who is denied permission to enroll in a dual credit course;

(3) Accommodations or other arrangements applicable to special education students;

(4) The contents of the uniform master agreement, developed in collaboration with the school districts, high schools and University of the Virgin Islands that govern the roles, responsibilities and liabilities of the school districts, high schools, Virgin Islands Board of Education and the University of the Virgin Islands, and the student and the student's family;

(5) Provisions for collecting and disseminating annual data, including:

(A) The number of students taking dual credit courses; to be performed by the University of the Virgin Islands;

(B) The participating school and post secondary educational institutions; to be performed by the University of the Virgin Islands;

(C) The high school graduation rates for participating school; to be performed by the Department of Education

(D) The post-secondary educational institutions that participating students ultimately attend, whether public or private; to be performed by the Department of Education; and

(E) The cost of providing dual credit courses; to be performed by the University of the Virgin Islands

(f) The University of the Virgin Islands and the Department of Education shall evaluate the dual credit program in terms of its accessibility to students in the Virgin Islands, the Virgin Islands Board of Education and its effect on the following:

(1) Student achievement in secondary education;

(2) Student enrollment and completion of higher education; and

(3) School districts, each participating school, the University of the Virgin Islands, and the Virgin Islands Board of Education

(g) The University of the Virgin Islands and the Department of Education shall make an annual report, including recommendation, to the Governor and the Legislature of the Virgin Islands.”

SECTION 2. The sum of \$50,000 is appropriated in the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, from interest on debt service reserves, or from any other available source of funds, for the creation of the “Dual Credit Fund”. All monies appropriated to the Fund must be used exclusively for the administration of the Dual Credit program.

BILL SUMMARY

This bill seeks to establish a dual credit program between the University of the Virgin Islands and the Department of Education for public and state supported high school students in the Virgin Islands. Subsection (a) established the dual credit program and defines the term.

Subsection (b) establishes student eligibility requirements for the program.

Subsection (c) indicates when the dual credit courses may be taken.

Subsection (d) provides for the payment of costs, fees and possibility of tuition waiver for students.

Subsection (e) authorizes the University of the Virgin Islands and the Department of Education to adopt and promulgate rules to implement a dual credit program.

Subsection (f) provides for post dual credit program implementation evaluation.

Section (g) requires an annual report from the University of the Virgin Islands and Department of Education to be sent to the Governor and the Legislature of the Virgin Islands.

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