

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT

BILL NO. 31-0010

Thirty-first Legislature of the Virgin Islands

February 4, 2015

An Act codifying the Parents-Students School Participation Program

PROPOSED BY: Senator Jean A. Forde
Co Sponsor: Novelle A. Francis, Jr.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** Title 17 Virgin Islands Code, chapter 9 is amended by adding section 99
3 and reads as follows:

4 **“§99 Parents-Students School Participation Program**

5 (a) There is established within the public, private and parochial schools of the Virgin
6 Islands, a program known as the Parents-Students School Participation Program.

7 (b) The Commissioner of Education shall establish rules and regulations and
8 coordinate school personnel to implement the Parents-Students School Participation Program
9 established in subsection (a) of this section.

10 (c) Parents or legal guardians of students enrolled in the public, private or parochial
11 schools in grades kindergarten through 12 are eligible to participate in the program.

1 (d) Parents and legal guardians must provide their employers with documented proof
2 of their child's enrollment in public, private or parochial school. In addition, legal guardians shall
3 submit proof of legal guardianship of the child.

4 (e) Only full-time employees who have children enrolled in a public, private or
5 parochial elementary or high schools are eligible to participate in the program.

6 (f) The program is in effect throughout the academic school year during official
7 school hours.

8 (g) Notwithstanding any other law, employees of the Government of the Virgin
9 Islands and its semi-autonomous agencies and instrumentalities and those employed by
10 beneficiaries of either the Industrial Development Program (IDC) or the provisions of Act No.
11 4740, are entitled to a maximum of two hours off from their jobs per month without loss of pay,
12 or any other benefit to enable the employees/parents to visit with their children, teachers,
13 counselors and other school officials.

14 (h) Those private sector employers who are beneficiaries of either the Industrial
15 Development Program (IDC) or Act No. 4740 shall permit their employees to participate in the
16 Parents-Students School Participation Program in accordance with this section.

17 (i) Parents and legal guardians who wish to participate in the Parents-Students
18 School Participation Program must to submit to their employer documented proof of their
19 participation in a scheduled school activity or visit for which the allotted time off from work was
20 taken. Failure to submit such proof is be ground for the employer to dock the employee's pay.

21 (j) Employers and employees shall strive to establish mutually acceptable schedules
22 which would permit parents to participate in the program as fully as possible and employers to
23 maintain adequate staffing levels.”

1 **SECTION 2.** Act No. 6124 and Section 8 of Act No. 6246 are repealed.

2 **SECTION 3.** This Act takes effect upon enactment.

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5 **BR15-0041/January 16, 2015/YLT**

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