

# THE BOLQUES BULLETIN

A Bimestrial Update from the Office of Angel Bolques Jr. Senator-At-Large  
 St. John Office: 340-776-6285 | St. Thomas Office: 340-693-3571 | St. Croix Office: 340-712-2278




## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR SENATOR-AT-LARGE

Dear Virgin Islanders,

Since the last edition of the Bolques Bulletin, I've remained fully engaged—immersed and focused in legislative hearings, meetings, site visits, and community events that reflect the pulse of our people. Many of these moments are too numerous to list, but each one strengthens my resolve to serve you with purpose, humility, and unmatched dedication. Whether advancing healthcare, preserving culture, or supporting economic growth, my work on your behalf continues—with consistency and conviction. I believe leadership means showing up, listening, and taking action—and that's exactly what I've been doing. Here are just a few recent highlights:

- Attended the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the new VI Diabetes Center of Excellence, expanding healthcare access for our residents.
- Toured Cruzan Rum, a cornerstone of our economy, to advocate for the strength of the Rum Cover-Over Program.
- Connected with our vibrant racing community at the CDRA Cash Days preview event.
- Visited the Early Head Start facility with Lutheran Social Services to address pressing community challenges.

I remain right here with you, doing the work, every day. With gratitude, integrity, and purpose,

Sincerely,  
  
 Angel Bolques Jr.  
 Senator-At-Large

## LEARN MORE ABOUT SENATOR ANGEL BOLQUES JR.

- [angelbolquesjr.com](http://angelbolquesjr.com)
- [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angel\\_Bolques\\_Jr.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angel_Bolques_Jr.)
- [legvi.org/senator/senator-angel-l-bolques-jr](http://legvi.org/senator/senator-angel-l-bolques-jr)
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## PROTECTING OUR SENIORS, ELDERS, OR OLDER PERSONS: A LANDMARK STEP FORWARD

Recently, I was honored to speak at the Elder Justice Summit held at the University of the Virgin Islands. It was a powerful gathering of law enforcement, legal experts, AARP Virgin Islands, DHS, DOJ, and community partners, all committed to one goal: ending elder abuse in our territory.

As your Senator At Large, protecting our elders has been a core part of my legislative mission. I have sponsored multiple bills aimed at strengthening elder rights and protections. Two key measures include:

- Bill No. 36-0003 – Sets clear standards for assisted living and nursing home facilities
- Bill No. 36-0099 - the Elder Abuse Response Reform Act

Bill 36-0099 amends Title 34, Chapter 15 of the Virgin Islands Code to bring sweeping reforms that will save lives and ensure justice. It:

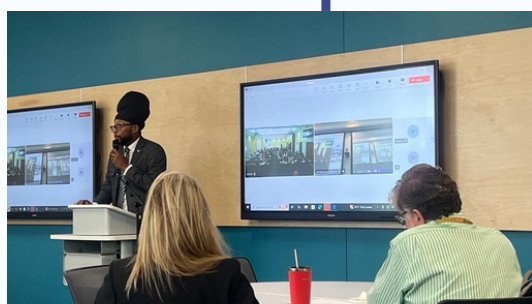
- Closes dangerous legal gaps by mandating immediate protective orders when elders face imminent danger
- Creates an Elder Abuse Registry to prevent known abusers from working in positions of trust
- Establishes a Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) to coordinate responses across DHS, DOJ, law enforcement, and medical professionals
- Reflects national best practices and local data, developed through the 2023 Elder Justice Working Group

These protections are a promise to our parents, grandparents, and community elders that they will not be forgotten or left unprotected.

Let us move forward together with urgency, compassion, and resolve. In the Virgin Islands, we honor our elders not just with words—but with action.



## Elder Response



## STANDING UP FOR OUR SENIORS

**Bill No. 36-0099**

### THE ELDER ABUSE RESPONSE REFORM ACT

**Sponsored by Senator Angel Bolques Jr.**

- 90-year-old woman defrauded of \$100,000 in a banking scheme
- Elderly man on St. Croix robbed of over \$60,000 by a caregiver
- Senior in June brutally beaten in his home, later died

### THE BILL WILL:

- ✓ Establish a Multi-Disciplinary Team to strengthen response
- ✓ Create an Elder Abuse Registry to prevent further harm
- ✓ Authorize DHS & DOJ to seek court orders in high-risk cases
- ✓ Improve coordination and legal protections



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## REAL ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION FOR THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Every day, I hear from residents across our islands — “When will someone fix these roads?” The potholes, trenches, unsafe conditions, and lack of accountability have worn down not just our roads, but the patience of our people.

For 56 years, public roads in the Virgin Islands were left unprotected by law. While private roadwork was regulated, companies could dig into our public streets without proper oversight or restoration — and we, the taxpayers, were left to foot the bill.

That is why I introduced Bill No. 36-0110, and I’m proud to share that it has now passed its committee of jurisdiction and is moving forward to the Rules and Judiciary Committee with overwhelming support.

This bill amends Title 20, Chapter 1 of the Virgin Islands Code to finally establish a real, enforceable permit system for all public road excavations. It will:

- Close the outdated \$25 permit loophole by introducing fair, tiered fees based on the scope and impact of the work.
- Require companies to restore what they damage — roads, sidewalks, curbs, and landscaping.
- Hold violators accountable with real penalties, fines, and permit suspensions.
- Set clear safety and restoration standards, overseen by the Department of Public Works.
- Launch within 90 days of becoming law, so relief isn’t delayed.

We’re not patching holes — we’re solving the problem. We’re standing up for every resident who’s ever had to replace a tire, dodge a trench, or drive a dangerous detour.

Our roads should reflect the care we have for our community. With this bill, we finally have the tools to make that happen.



## Road Repair & Protection



## PROTECTING OUR ROADWAYS

### Bill No. 36-0110

Sponsored by Senator Angel Bolques Jr.



Closes the \$25 Permit Loophole  
Scaled fees based on project size, duration & impact.

Companies Pay for the Damage  
Inspections, traffic control & full restoration—on their dime.

Real Penalties for Violations  
Unauthorized digs or failure to restore? Expect fines & suspensions.

Clear Rules for Every Project  
DPW will set safety standards, timelines & restoration protocols.

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## HONORING THE PAST, INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE: MY VISIT TO PROSPERITY FARM DISTILLERY



Recently, I had the pleasure of visiting Prosperity Farm Distillery in Frederiksted — and I left with a deep sense of pride in what's being built on the west side of St. Croix.

Set on 180 acres of fertile farmland, Prosperity Farm is doing more than growing crops — they're cultivating opportunity. From sugarcane and bananas to ginger and other local harvests, the team is turning what the land gives into six uniquely crafted spirits, all proudly produced right here on St. Croix.

What struck me most was that the vision behind Prosperity Farm goes well beyond the distillery. The team has lovingly restored a building dating back to the 1760s — once home to the legendary Plantation Nightclub — and transformed it into a space that honors our history while embracing our future.

Their plans are both ambitious and rooted in community: Friday night gatherings with food and music, future festivals, farmers' markets, and even a café. Prosperity Farm is becoming a true cultural hub, one that uplifts local traditions, stimulates our economy, and brings people together. This is the kind of entrepreneurship we should champion in the Virgin Islands:

- Preserving heritage, while innovating for the future
- Creating local jobs and offering employees a stake in the business
- Keeping economic value in the Territory, where it belongs
- Revitalizing historic spaces for cultural and economic development

To help businesses like Prosperity Farm thrive, we must continue to shape policy that supports small-scale producers, craft distilleries, and locally driven tourism. These are the projects that reflect our values, celebrate our identity, and bring lasting benefit to our communities.

I want to extend heartfelt congratulations to the entire team at Prosperity Farm. Visiting your farm was more than informative — it was a reminder of how powerful it is when we build our future on the strength of our past.

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## LEGISLATIVE BILLS IN COMMITTEE



**Bill No. 36-0003:** This bill strengthens regulations for nursing homes and assisted living facilities by requiring essential healthcare, personal care, and social support, while setting financial safeguards to prevent exploitation. It reinforces visitation rights, expands resident protections for dignity and privacy, and raises accountability standards to improve long-term care in the Virgin Islands.



**Bill No. 36-0151:** Amending Title 23 Virgin Islands Code Regarding the Illegal Possession of Machine Gun Conversion Devices – This bill strengthens public safety by prohibiting the possession, manufacture, sale, or distribution of machine gun conversion devices, including chips, 3D-printed parts, and binary triggers that modify firearms to fire automatically. It establishes penalties, along with immediate seizure and forfeiture of illegal devices.



**Bill No. 36-0039** amends Title 33, Chapter 4 of the Virgin Islands Code to increase the costs of bringing containers and flat rack containers into the Virgin Islands, doubling the rates to generate new revenue. The measure is designed to support government services, infrastructure, and address the economic impact of imports on the Territory, while aligning import-related fees with fiscal needs and sustainability efforts. Importantly, the bill also ensures that a portion of these funds directly support the Anti-Litter and Beautification Summer Program, which provides summer jobs for youth and helps improve public spaces throughout the Virgin Islands.



**Bill No. 36-0109:** This bill amends Title 33 and Title 20 of the Virgin Islands Code to establish the Inspections and Safety on Public Highways Fund and modernize the territory's vehicle inspection and registration process. It mandates inspections for specific vehicle categories, including school buses, vehicles for hire, and those newly imported or requiring emissions testing. The bill authorizes certified auto repair shops to conduct inspections and allows for online registration for vehicles not subject to mandatory inspections. It also empowers the Bureau of Motor Vehicles and the Virgin Islands Police Department to enforce compliance, remove unsafe vehicles from roadways, and implement an emissions inspection program. All related revenues will support roadway safety initiatives through the newly created fund.



**Bill No. 36-0149:** A resolution honoring and commending Janeisha John for her outstanding achievements, pioneering spirit, and contributions to entertainment, modeling, and television production, and as a cultural ambassador of the USVI.



**Bill No. 36-0110:** \* As outlined in the article above

**Bill No. 36-0099:** \* As outlined in the article above

## UPCOMING BILLS FROM SENATOR ANGEL BOLQUES JR.

PLEASE VISIT: [www.angelbolquesjr.com/legislative-work/agenda](http://www.angelbolquesjr.com/legislative-work/agenda)

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