

10/3/2016-REPORTED OUT TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JUDICIARY

**BILL NO. 31-0010**

**Thirty-first Legislature of the Virgin Islands**

**February 4, 2015**

An Act amending Virgin Islands Code title 17 chapter 9 to codify 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 to  
3 read 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 promulgate regulations and coordinate  
8 school personnel to implement the Parents-Students School Participation Program established in  
9 subsection (a) of this section.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 (j) Employers and employees shall strive to establish mutually acceptable schedules  
2 that would permit parents to participate in the program as fully as possible and employers to  
3 maintain adequate staffing levels.”

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

5

6

**BILL SUMMARY**

7 The bill codifies the Parents-Students School Participation statute, which allows parents  
8 who are Government employees or employees of certain government program beneficiaries two  
9 hours per month to visit their childrens’ school.

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

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18