

OVERRIDDEN
DATE: 12/21/2017

ACT NO. 8018

VETOED
DEC 13 2017
GOVERNOR

BILL NO. 32-0157

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Regular Session

2017

An Act banning the burning of all fallen trees and other vegetative debris generated as a result of a natural disaster

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WHEREAS, the Virgin Islands endured two category-five hurricanes that resulted in tremendous damage to the natural resources of the Virgin Islands; and

WHEREAS, the majority of the hurricane debris is clean wood from fallen trees and other vegetation; and

WHEREAS, wood and green waste are suitable for woodcraft, composting and will produce mulch that can be used to improve soil health; and

WHEREAS, the Virgin Islands is a sensitive, tropical ecosystem with high temperature and high humidity; and

WHEREAS, many residents of the Virgin Islands have asthma and other respiratory and cardiac diseases that are made worst by air pollution; and

WHEREAS, the operation of diesel generators and exposure to indoor mold aggravate existing respiratory diseases; and

WHEREAS, the potential health and environmental implications of local wood burning need to be fully examined; Now, Therefore,

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands:

SECTION 1. (a) It is unlawful to burn any trees, limbs of trees or other vegetation fallen or generated by a natural disaster for the purpose of solid waste disposal.

(b) Nothing in the act prohibits the immediate collection and composting of wood and green waste or prohibits residents who have obtained a burn permit from burning vegetation on their private property.

SECTION 2. The Departments of Health, Agriculture, Planning and Natural Resources, and the Virgin Islands Waste Management Authority shall implement a plan that includes the purchasing of necessary equipment with money from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for the composting and mulching of trees felled during Hurricanes Irma and Maria and other vegetative waste generated in the aftermath of the hurricanes, and prepare a study on the economic and health impacts wood burning may cause.

SECTION 3. The prohibition in section 1(a) applies to vegetative debris generated by Hurricanes Irma and Maria, and the study mandated in section 2 must be completed not more than one year after the effective date of this act.

Thus passed by the Legislature of the Virgin Islands on December 1, 2017.

Witness our Hands and Seal of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands this 2nd Day of December, A.D., 2017.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Myron D. Jackson".

Myron D. Jackson
President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jean A. Forde".

Jean A. Forde
Legislative Secretary

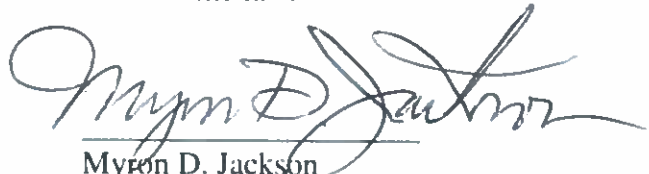
LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

**CERTIFICATE OF ENACTMENT
NOTWITHSTANDING THE GOVERNOR'S VETO**

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT, Bill No. 32-0157- An Act banning the burning of all fallen trees and other vegetative debris generated as a result of a natural disaster enacted by the Thirty-Second Legislature of the Virgin Islands at its regular session held on December 1, 2017, (a copy of which is attached hereto) and vetoed by the Governor on December 13, 2017, was duly enacted, by override, by the Thirty-Second Legislature at its regular session on December 21, 2017, pursuant to section 9(d) of the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands, 48 U.S.C. §1575 (d), notwithstanding the Governor's veto and has become law.

DATED:

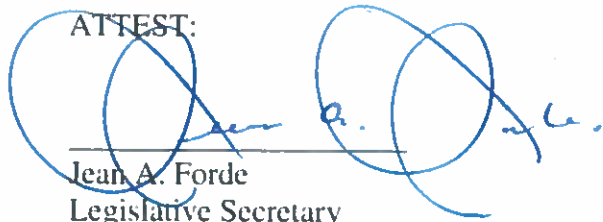
12/28/17



Myron D. Jackson
President



ATTEST:



Jean A. Forde
Legislative Secretary