

**(h) Vacancies**

The Legislature of the Virgin Islands shall by law provide the procedure for filling any vacancy in the office of member of the legislature.

(July 22, 1954, ch. 558, §6, 68 Stat. 499; Pub. L. 86-289, §2(a), (b), Sept. 16, 1959, 73 Stat. 568; Pub. L. 89-98, July 30, 1965, 79 Stat. 423; Pub. L. 90-496, §8(b), Aug. 23, 1968, 82 Stat. 839; Pub. L. 92-389, Aug. 17, 1972, 86 Stat. 563; Pub. L. 93-130, §1, Oct. 19, 1973, 87 Stat. 460.)

## REFERENCES IN TEXT

This chapter, referred to in subsec. (g), was in the original "this Act", meaning act July 22, 1954, ch. 558, 68 Stat. 497, as amended, known as the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands, which is classified principally to this chapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1541 of this title and Tables.

## AMENDMENTS

1973—Subsec. (h). Pub. L. 93-130 substituted provision authorizing the Legislature of Virgin Islands to provide by law the procedure for filling vacancies in the membership of the Legislature, for provisions authorizing the Governor of the Virgin Islands to fill any such vacancy by appointment of resident of the district from which the member whose office became vacant was elected if the vacancy is that of a Senator and of resident of any part of Virgin Islands if the vacancy is that of a Senator at large, and that such appointee shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.

1972—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 92-389 reduced the age qualification for membership of legislature from twenty-five years to twenty-one years.

1968—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 90-496 inserted proviso requiring members of boards of elections, duly organized by the government, to be popularly elected.

1965—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 89-98 substituted provisions empowering the government of the Virgin Islands to fix and pay legislative salaries and expenses for provisions which specifically fixed these salaries and expenses and which required the United States Government to pay them.

1959—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 86-289, §2(a), substituted, in second sentence, "January" for "April", before "following his election", and substituted, in proviso, "1958" for "1954", "April 1959" for "January 1955", and "1961, and the term of office of each member elected in November 1960 shall commence on the second Monday in April 1961 and continue until the second Monday in January 1963" for "1957".

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 86-289, §2(b), changed the date of payment of salaries, increased the per diem from \$10 to \$20, and provided that the per diem paid to members of the legislature for official travel outside the Virgin Islands should not be at rates in excess of those paid Federal Government employees.

## EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1973 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 93-130, §2, Oct. 19, 1973, 87 Stat. 460, provided that: "The amendment made by the first section of this Act [amending this section] shall apply with respect to vacancies occurring on or after the date of enactment of this Act [Oct. 19, 1973]."

## EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1968 AMENDMENT

Amendment of provisions of section necessary to authorize the holding of an election for Governor and Lieutenant Governor on Nov. 3, 1970, effective Jan. 1, 1970, and all other amendments of provisions of section, unless otherwise expressly provided by Pub. L. 90-496, effective Jan. 4, 1971, see section 16 of Pub. L. 90-496, set out as a note under section 1591 of this title.

**§ 1573. Time, frequency, and duration of regular sessions; special sessions; place of holding**

(a) Regular sessions of the legislature shall be held annually, commencing on the second Monday in January (unless the legislature shall by law fix a different date), and shall continue for such term as the legislature may provide. The Governor may call special sessions of the legislature at any time when in his opinion the public interest may require it. No legislation shall be considered at any special session other than that specified in the call therefor or in any special message by the Governor to the legislature while in such session. All sessions of the legislature shall be open to the public.

(b) Sessions of the legislature shall be held in the capital of the Virgin Islands at Charlotte Amalie, Saint Thomas.

(July 22, 1954, ch. 558, §7, 68 Stat. 500; Pub. L. 86-289, §2(c), Sept. 16, 1959, 73 Stat. 569; Pub. L. 90-496, §1, Aug. 23, 1968, 82 Stat. 837.)

## AMENDMENTS

1968—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 90-496 substituted provisions that regular sessions of the legislature shall continue for such term as the legislature may provide for provisions that regular sessions shall continue for not more than sixty consecutive calendar days in any calendar year, with the proviso that the regular annual session for 1959, 1960, and 1961 shall commence on the second Monday in April and shall continue for not more than sixty consecutive calendar days, struck out provisions that any special session called by the Governor shall continue for not more than fifteen calendar days, with the aggregate of any such special sessions during any calendar year not to exceed thirty calendar days, and inserted provision opening to the public all sessions of the legislature.

1959—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 86-289 substituted "January (unless the legislature shall by law fix a different date)" for "April" and "regular annual session for each of the years 1959, 1960, and 1961, respectively, shall commence on the second Monday in April" for "annual session for 1955 shall commence on the second Monday in January 1955".

## EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1968 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 90-496, §1, Aug. 23, 1968, 82 Stat. 837, provided that the amendment made by that section is effective on date of enactment of Pub. L. 90-496, which was approved Aug. 23, 1968.

**§ 1574. Legislative powers and activities****(a) Scope of authority; limitation on enactments and taxation**

The legislative authority and power of the Virgin Islands shall extend to all rightful subjects of legislation not inconsistent with this chapter or the laws of the United States made applicable to the Virgin Islands, but no law shall be enacted which would impair rights existing or arising by virtue of any treaty or international agreement entered into by the United States, nor shall the lands or other property of nonresidents be taxed at a higher rate than the lands or other property of residents.

**(b) Government bonds; maximum amount; sale, interest, etc.**

(i) The legislature of the government of the Virgin Islands may cause to be issued on behalf of said government bonds or other obligations for a public improvement or public undertaking