

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3026

To provide for the adoption of the Revised Organic Act of the Virgin Islands
as the constitution of the United States Virgin Islands.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 28, 2023

Ms. PLASKETT introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To provide for the adoption of the Revised Organic Act
of the Virgin Islands as the constitution of the United
States Virgin Islands.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. ADOPTION OF CONSTITUTION FOR THE UNITED**
4 **STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Revised Organic Act of the
6 Virgin Islands (48 U.S.C. 1541 et seq.) (as amended
7 through January 1, 2023)—

8 (1) is deemed to satisfy the requirements of
9 Public Law 94–584 (90 Stat. 2899) with respect to

1 a constitution for the local self-government of the
2 people of the United States Virgin Islands; and

3 (2) as of the date of the enactment of this Act,
4 is adopted as the constitution of the United States
5 Virgin Islands.

6 (b) AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION.—

7 (1) PROPOSED AMENDMENTS.—

8 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Legislature of the
9 Virgin Islands (referred to in this subsection as
10 the “Legislature”) may propose amendments to
11 the constitution of the United States Virgin Is-
12 lands (referred to in this subsection as the
13 “constitution”) by a resolution approved by not
14 less than two-thirds of all of the members of
15 the Legislature.

16 (B) PRESENTATION TO VOTERS.—All pro-
17 posed amendments approved by the Legislature
18 under subparagraph (A)—

19 (i) shall be submitted to the qualified
20 voters of the United States Virgin Islands
21 (referred to in this subsection as “qualified
22 voters”) in a referendum; and

23 (ii) published at least 3 months before
24 the date of such referendum.

1 (C) REFERENDUM CONCURRENT WITH
2 GENERAL ELECTION.—If the resolution is ap-
3 proved by not less than three-fourths of all of
4 the members of the Legislature, the Legislature
5 may provide that the referendum be held at the
6 same time as the next general election.

7 (D) AMENDMENT REQUIREMENTS.—Each
8 proposed amendment approved by the Legisla-
9 ture under subparagraph (A) shall—

10 (i) be voted on separately;

11 (ii) specify the terms under which it
12 shall take effect; and

13 (iii) become a part of the constitution
14 if it is ratified by a majority of the quali-
15 fied voters voting thereon.

16 (E) MAXIMUM NUMBER.—Not more than 3
17 proposed constitutional amendments may be
18 submitted at the same referendum.

19 (2) CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION; REVI-
20 SIONS.—

21 (A) QUESTION TO VOTERS.—The Legisla-
22 ture, by a resolution approved by two-thirds of
23 all of the members of the Legislature, may sub-
24 mit to the qualified voters at a referendum,
25 held at the same time as a general election, the

1 question of whether a constitutional convention
2 shall be called to revise the constitution.

3 (B) EFFECT OF VOTE IN FAVOR OF REVI-
4 SION.—If a majority of the qualified voters vot-
5 ing on this question vote in favor of the revi-
6 sion, it shall be made by a constitutional con-
7 vention elected in the manner provided by law.

8 (C) SPECIAL REFERENDUM ON REVI-
9 SIONS.—Each revision of the constitution shall
10 be submitted to the qualified voters at a special
11 referendum for ratification or rejection by a
12 majority of the votes cast at the referendum.

13 (3) LIMITATIONS.—No amendment to the con-
14 stitution shall—

15 (A) alter the republican form of govern-
16 ment established by it; or

17 (B) abolish any right in the bill of rights.

18 (c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act
19 shall be construed to create a cause of action under Fed-
20 eral law with respect to any claim that the Legislature
21 of the Virgin Islands is in violation of the Revised Organic
22 Act of the Virgin Islands (48 U.S.C. 1541 et seq.).

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