GOVERNMENT HOUSE
UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

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Government House Clarifies Status of Cannabis Use in the Territory

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS — On January 18, Governor Albert Bryan Jr. signed into law the Virgin Islands Cannabis Use Act (Act 8680), which allows for the legal use of cannabis for medicinal, sacramental and adult purposes and also regulates the production, distribution, sale and use of cannabis.

The law also provides additional economic opportunities for Virgin Islanders and will create additional revenue for the Government of the Virgin Islands.

However, a number of steps and actions by the Office of Cannabis Regulations – including the development and finalization of Rules and Regulations governing the cannabis industry in the Territory – must take place before the new law can be fully enacted.

Until then, the use and sale of cannabis remains prohibited under the V.I. Code.

Cannabinoid Hemp products **are currently allowed** under the law including:

- Hemp-derived cannabinoids including CBD, CBN, or THC (less than 0.03%);
- Hemp products;
- The commercial cultivation of hemp, licensed through the V.I. Department of Agriculture; and
- The sale of Hemp Products, licensed through the Department of Licensing and Consumer Affairs.

In addition, simple possession of cannabis has been decriminalized throughout the Territory.

Among the steps necessary to fully enact the Cannabis Use Act are:

- Completing the rules and regulations, which are then reviewed by the Cannabis Advisory Board and submitted to the Virgin Islands Department of Justice.
- Upon approval by the Department of Justice, the rules and regulations are forwarded to the public for review and input before being voted on by the Cannabis Advisory Board and sent to the Governor for his signature.
- After the Office of Cannabis Regulation implements the rules and regulations, the public may begin to use and sell cannabis and its derivatives within the requirements of the rules and regulations.

Until and when that process is completed, the following restrictions remain in effect throughout the U.S. Virgin Islands:

- Possession of cannabis or its concentrates up to 1 ounce would create a fine of $100.
- Private consumption of cannabis, cannabis sales.
- Adult Use, Medicinal Patient Use, and Sacramental Use of cannabis is prohibited.

- Cannabis sales activity is prohibited.
- Transporting and distributing cannabis is prohibited.

Once the Governor signs the approved Rules and Regulations enacting the Cannabis Use Act, the following activities will **remain prohibited** under the V.I. Code:

- Possession and consumption of cannabis at all federal facilities.
- Public consumption of cannabis.
- Personal transportation of cannabis between islands.

The Bryan-Roach Administration is investing in the Territory's people, infrastructure and future through transparency, stabilizing the economy, restoring trust in the government and ensuring that recovery projects are completed as quickly as possible. Visit transparency.vi.gov

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