



# LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Capitol Building P.O. Box 1690 Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas U.S. Virgin Islands 00804

**ADLAH "FONCIE"  
DONASTORG**  
Senator, 28th Legislature

Member, Committees on:

*Financial Services,  
Infrastructure and Consumer  
Affairs*

*Housing, Sports  
and Veterans Affairs*

*Planning and  
Environmental Protection*

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## Donastorg pushes for repeal of Act 6905 Senate President Hill refuses to allow a vote and adjourns session

ST. THOMAS -- Senator Adlah "Foncie" Donastorg made a motion late Thursday evening to repeal Act 6905, the controversial legislation that granted Senators, the Governor and the Lt. Governor significant salary increases without benefit of any public input.

During Thursday's Legislative Session, Senators voted to waive the rules of pre-emption in order to vote on the Governor's bond issue. Donastorg used the waiving of the rules as an opportunity to make a motion to consider the repeal of Act 6905. Senate President Louis Patrick Hill refused to allow senators to vote on the motion.

Legislation is considered "pre-empted" when one or more Senators have previously submitted similar bills to the Office of Legal Counsel. Under the Rules of the Legislature, no senator may bring pre-empted legislation forward. The rules of pre-emption are often used by some senators to block their colleagues from moving on controversial matters. "Senator Hill said I was out of order," Donastorg said. "I challenged him on this and must say that I believe he was out of order when he voted to shove these salary increases down the throats of the people of the Virgin Islands back in 2006."

Senator Hill adjourned the meeting after Donastorg challenged his refusal to hear the motion. Donastorg has sought the repeal of the bill since assuming office in January and voted against Act 6905 when it was first proposed in the 26<sup>th</sup> Legislature.

"This bill was originally passed in a lame duck session late in the evening and I was very angered at my colleagues for proceeding in this fashion," Donastorg said. "I have remained adamantly opposed to Act 6905 since its inception."

The first piece of legislation he submitted in the 28<sup>th</sup> Legislature was for the repeal of Act 6905. "This legislation was submitted immediately following our swearing in on January 12, 2009 and I was later told that I was pre-empted and could not bring this legislation forward," Donastorg said. "I continue to dispute this and have sought other ways to right the wrong committed against the people of the Virgin Islands."

Members of the 28<sup>th</sup> Legislature's Majority have publicly stated that Donastorg's opposition to Act 6905 was one of the reasons they elected to unseat him as President of the 28<sup>th</sup> Legislature.

"I am proud to stand up for accountability and transparency," Donastorg said. "I am certain that the majority of Virgin Islands residents stand right alongside me and are disgusted by the ongoing attempts to block accountability and transparency."