

**BERMUDA**

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE SENATE**

**SESSION OF 2025 - 2026**

**No. 18**

**WEDNESDAY, 18<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2026**

**PRESENT:**

Senator the Hon. Mrs. J.E. DILLAS-WRIGHT,  
M.B.E., J.P. - PRESIDENT  
Senator R.J. WIGHT – VICE PRESIDENT  
Senator Ms. T.O.P. TANNOCK  
Senator the Hon. K.R. WILKERSON, J.P.  
Senator the Hon. C.C. CAESAR, J.P.  
Senator Ms. L.K. SIMMONS  
Senator M.G. FUBLER  
Senator Ms. L.F. BELL  
Senator Ms. V.J. CUNNINGHAM  
Senator T.J.D. SMITH  
Senator D.H. ROGERS

**10:05a.m.**

Newly appointed Senator David Henri Rogers, being present in the Chamber, made and subscribed to the Oath of Allegiance before the Senate.

**10:07a.m.**

On the motion of Senator R.J. Wight, the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday, 17th December 2025 were taken as read and confirmed.

**Messages**

**10:08a.m.**

The following Message was received from the Honourable House of Assembly and read out by the Clerk:-

(No. 3)

TO THE HONOURABLE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE SENATE:

The House of Assembly has the honour to forward herewith the undernoted Bill for the concurrence of your House:

The “Appropriation Act 2026”

Copies of the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for 2026/27 are also forwarded for the information of your House.

Hon. Dennis P. Lister, JP, MP  
SPEAKER

16<sup>th</sup> March 2026

**Announcements**

**10:08a.m.**

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar presented for the information of Senate the “The 2025 National Economic Report of Bermuda”; and the

“Financial Statements of the Consolidated Fund of the Government of Bermuda as at March 31, 2025”.

**10:09a.m.**

Senator M.G. Fubler presented for the information of Senate the “Marine Resources Enforcement Strategy 2025”.

**10:09a.m.**

Senator L.F. Bell presented for the information of Senate the “Bermuda Fintech Strategy 2026-2028”;

The “Economic Development Strategy 2023-2027- Strategic Priority 1: Local and International Business Retention and Expansion 2023 – 2027 Update”;

The “Economic Development Strategy 2023 – 2027 Strategic Priority 2: Business Attraction and Investment Promotion 2023 – 2027 Update”; and

The “Economic Development Strategy 2023 – 2027 Strategic Priority 3: Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development 2023 – 2027 Update”.

**10:11a.m.**

Senator L.K. Simmons presented for the information of Senate “The Story of Us – Green Paper on Bermuda’s Application for Full Membership in the Caribbean Community”.

**Notice of Motion**

**10:12a.m.**

With the Governor’s recommendation and in accordance with section 36(3) of the Bermuda Constitution, Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar presented for the consideration of Senate the “Government Authorities (Fees) Amendment Order 2026” proposed to be made by the Minister of Finance, in exercise of the power conferred by section 4(1) of the Government Authorities (Fees) Act 1971; and gave notice she would move that the said draft Order be approved at the next day of meeting.

**Petitions**

**10:12a.m.**

Senator M.G. Fubler moved for leave to introduce the following petition: The petition by Appleby (Bermuda) Limited presenting a draft Bill to provide flexibility in certain respects when structuring Anthea Insurance Limited’s long-term insurance policies, as set out in the Bill entitled the “Anthea Insurance Limited Act 2026”, which accompanies this petition, which was agreed to.

Senator M.G. Fubler asked that the said petition be referred to the Joint Select Committee on Private Bills for consideration and report, which was agreed to.

**10:13a.m.**

Senator M.G. Fubler moved for leave to introduce the following petition: The petition by Appleby (Bermuda) Limited presenting a draft Bill to provide flexibility in certain respects when structuring HODLife Insurance Company Limited’s long-term insurance policies, as set out in the Bill entitled the “HODLife Insurance Company Ltd Act 2026”, which accompanies this petition, which was agreed to.

Senator M.G. Fubler asked that the said petition be referred to the Joint Select Committee

on Private Bills for consideration and report, which was agreed to.

**Introduction of Bills**

**10:14a.m.**

The following Public Bills were brought up from the Honourable House of Assembly, and given their First Reading in the Senate:-

“Appropriation Act 2026”  
 {Governor’s Recommendation Signified}

“Payroll Tax Amendment and Validation Act 2026”  
 {Governor’s Recommendation Signified}

“Auxiliary Bicycles (Project Ride) Amendment Act 2026”

“Motor Car (Ridesharing) Amendment Act 2026”

“Employment Amendment Act 2026”

“Motor Car (Licence Duties Reduction) Amendment Act 2026”  
 {Governor’s Recommendation Signified}

“Municipalities Reform Act 2026”

**Orders of the Day**

**10:15a.m.**

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar moved that the provisions of Standing Order 25 be granted so that Senate may now proceed with the Second Reading of the Public Bill entitled the “Appropriation Act 2026”, which was agreed to.

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar moved that the Public Bill entitled the “Appropriation Act 2026” be now read the second time, which was agreed to.

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar spoke on the Bill.

**10:35a.m.**

Madam President acknowledged the presence of Opposition Leader the Hon. Ben Smith, Deputy Opposition Leader Mr. R. Scott Pearman, and Opposition Whip the Hon. L. Craig Cannonier, in the Public Gallery.

10:36a.m. – Senator V.J. Cunningham

10:52a.m. – Senator R.J. Wight

11:02a.m. – Senator L.K. Simmons

11:11a.m. – Senator D.H. Rogers

11:15a.m. – Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson (P.O.O)

11:17a.m. – Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson (P.O.O)

11:25a.m. – Senator M.G. Fubler

**11:44a.m.**

Madam President acknowledged the presence of Deputy Premier, the Hon. Zane DeSilva, in the Public Gallery.

11:45a.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

11:48a.m. – Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar (P.O.O)

11:51a.m. – Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson (P.O.O)

11:52a.m. – Senator L.K. Simmons (P.O.O)

11:53a.m. – Senator L.K. Simmons (P.O.O)

11:54a.m. – Senator L.F. Bell

12:11p.m. – Senator T.J.D. Smith

12:23p.m. – Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson

12:32p.m. – Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar replied.

The Bill was accordingly read a second time.

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar moved that the Senate do now resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for further consideration of “The Appropriation Act 2026”, together with the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the Year 2026/2027, which was agreed to.

(Senator R.J. Wight in the Chair)

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar moved Heads 87 (Ministry of Justice Headquarters), 25 (Department of Corrections), 74 (Department of Court Services) and 75 (Department of Public Prosecutions), which was agreed to.

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar moved that the Committee rise, report progress and ask for

leave to sit again, Monday, 23rd March 2026, which was agreed to.

**12:38p.m.**

Senator R.J. Wight moved that Senate do now adjourn for lunch and resume at 2:15p.m., which was agreed to.

**2:17p.m.**

The Senate resumed.

(Madam President in the Chair)

**2:17p.m.**

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson moved that the provisions of Standing Order 25 be granted so that Senate may now proceed with the Second Reading of the Public Bill entitled the “Municipalities Reform Act 2026”, which was agreed to.

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson moved that the Public Bill entitled the “Municipalities Reform Act 2026” be now read the second time, which was agreed to.

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson spoke on the Bill.

2:40p.m. – Senator V.J. Cunningham (P.O.C)

2:45p.m. – Senator V.J. Cunningham

2:50p.m. – Senator R.J. Wight

2:55p.m. – Senator L.F. Bell

3:02p.m. – Senator L.K. Simmons

3:05p.m. – Senator V.J. Cunningham (P.O.O)

3:08p.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

3:09p.m. – Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson (P.O.O)

3:12p.m. – Senator T.J.D. Smith

3:15p.m. – Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson (P.O.O)

3:16p.m. – Senator L.K. Simmons (P.O.O)

3:16p.m. – Senator M.G. Fubler

3:18p.m. – Senator V.J. Cunningham (P.O.C)

3:18p.m. – Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson (P.O.O)

3:19p.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

3:21p.m. – Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar

3:25p.m. – Senator D.H. Rogers

3:27p.m. – Madam President

3:28p.m. – Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson replied.

3:30p.m. – Senator R.J. Wight (P.O.C)

3:34p.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock (P.O.C)

3:38p.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock (P.O.C)

The Bill was accordingly read a second time.

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson moved that Standing Order 26 be suspended in respect of this Bill, which was agreed to.

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson moved that the Bill be now read a third time, which was objected to.

The motion was Defeated on Division with a vote of 5 Ayes to 6 Nays.

AYES: Senator L.F. Bell, Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar, Senator M.G. Fubler, Senator L.K. Simmons, Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson.

NAYS: Senator V.J. Cunningham, Senator D.H. Rogers, Senator T.J.D. Smith, Senator T.O.P. Tannock, Senator R.J. Wight, Madam President.

**3:41p.m.**

Madam President acknowledged the presence of former Senator Mr. James Jardine and former MP Mr. Michael Scott and MP Rev. Dr. EmilyGail Dill, in the Public Gallery.

**3:41p.m.**

Madam President acknowledged the presence of the Hon. Owen Darrell, Minister of Tourism, Transport, Culture and Sport, in the Chamber.

**3:45p.m.**

Senator M.G. Fubler moved that the provisions of Standing Order 25 be granted so that Senate may now proceed with the Second Reading of the Public Bill entitled the “Motor Car (Ridesharing) Amendment Act 2026”, which was agreed to.

Senator M.G. Fubler moved that the Public Bill entitled the “Motor Car (Ridesharing) Amendment Act 2026” be now read the second time, which was agreed to.

Senator M.G. Fubler spoke on the Bill.

**4:08p.m.**

Madam President acknowledged the presence of Ms. Carlita O’Brien, Deputy Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Tourism, Transport, Culture and Sport, in the Chamber.

4:03p.m. – Senator R.J. Wight

4:06p.m. – Senator T.J.D. Smith

4:12p.m. – Senator L.K. Simmons

**4:21p.m.**

Madam President acknowledged the presence of the Hon. Diallo Rabain, Minister for the Cabinet Office and Digital Innovation, in the Public Gallery.

4:21p.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

4:25p.m. – Senator L.K. Simmons (P.O.C)

4:26p.m. – Senator L.K. Simmons (P.O.I)

4:27p.m. – Senator V.J. Cunningham (P.O.C)

4:27p.m. – Senator M.G. Fubler (P.O.I)

4:29p.m. – Senator L.K. Simmons (P.O.I)

4:30p.m. – Senator M.G. Fubler (P.O.O)

4:30p.m. – Senator M.G. Fubler (P.O.O)

4:31p.m. – Senator L.K. Simmons (P.O.C)

4:32p.m. – Senator L.K. Simmons (P.O.O)

4:33p.m. – Senator L.K. Simmons (P.O.O)

4:34p.m. – Senator M.G. Fubler (P.O.O)

4:36p.m. – Senator V.J. Cunningham

4:42p.m. – Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson

4:42p.m. – Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar

4:51p.m. – Senator L.F. Bell

4:58p.m. – Senator M.G. Fubler replied.

The Bill was accordingly read a second time.

Senator M.G. Fubler moved that Standing Order 26 be suspended in respect of this Bill, which was agreed to.

Senator M.G. Fubler moved that the Bill be now read a third time, which was agreed to, with Senator T.O.P. Tannock objecting.

The Bill was accordingly read a third time.

Senator M.G. Fubler moved that the Bill entitled the “Motor Car (Ridesharing) Amendment Act 2026” do now pass, which was Affirmed on Division with a vote of 7 Ayes to 4 Nays.

AYES: Senator L.F. Bell, Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar, Senator M.G. Fubler, Senator L.K. Simmons, Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson, Senator R.J. Wight, Madam President.

NAYS: Senator V.J. Cunningham, Senator D.H. Rogers, Senator T.J.D. Smith, Senator T.O.P. Tannock.

The Bill was accordingly passed and ordered to be laid before His Excellency the Governor for His Excellency’s assent.

**5:15p.m.**

Senator L.F. Bell moved that the provisions of Standing Order 25 be granted so that Senate may proceed with the Second Reading of the “Employment Amendment Act 2026”, which was objected to.

The motion was Affirmed on Division with a vote of 6 Ayes to 5 Nays.

AYES: Senator L.F. Bell, Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar, Senator M.G. Fubler, Senator L.K. Simmons, Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson, Madam President.

NAYS: Senator V.J. Cunningham, Senator D.H. Rogers, Senator T.J.D. Smith, Senator T.O.P. Tannock, Senator R.J. Wight.

Senator L.F. Bell moved that the Bill entitled the “Employment Amendment Act 2026” be now read a second time, which was agreed to.

5:22p.m. – Senator V.J. Cunningham

5:28p.m. – Senator L.K. Simmons

5:36p.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

5:39p.m. – Senator L.K. Simmons (P.O.I)

5:42p.m. – Senator L.K. Simmons (P.O.I)

5:44p.m. – Senator R.J. Wight

5:46p.m. – Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson

5:54p.m. – Senator D.H. Rogers

5:56p.m. – Senator L.F. Bell replied.

5:59p.m. – Senator V.J. Cunningham (P.O.I.)

6:04p.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

The Bill entitled the “Employment Amendment Act 2026” was accordingly read the second time.

Senator L.F. Bell moved that the Senate do now resolve itself into Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the Bill entitled the “Employment Amendment Act 2026”.

6:05p.m. – The Bill was committed.

(Senator R.J. Wight in the Chair)

Senator L.F. Bell moved Clauses 1 and 2, which was agreed to.

Clauses 1 and 2 were agreed to, as printed.

Senator L.F. Bell moved Clause 3, which was agreed to.

6:09pm. – Senator V.J. Cunningham moved the following Amendment to Clause 3: -

**Inserts new section 16B**

3. The principal Act is amended by inserting the following after section 16A—

**“Parental leave**

16B (1) Subject to subsections (3), (4) and (5) an employee shall be entitled to leave from his or her employment, for the purposes of caring for a child (hereinafter referred to as “parental leave”) upon the expected placement or placement of a child within that employee’s household by way of adoption or legal guardianship.

(2) The parental leave entitlement in respect of—

(a) the mother employee named in the court order for adoption or legal guardianship who is the designated adoptive parent or legal guardian —

(i) who has completed at least one year of continuous employment on the date of expected placement or placement of the child, shall be thirteen weeks paid leave;

(ii) who has not completed at least one year of continuous employment on the date of expected placement or placement of the child, shall be thirteen weeks unpaid leave;

(b) the father employee named in the court order for adoption or legal guardianship who is the non-designated adoptive parent or legal guardian —

(i) who has completed at least one year of continuous employment on the date of expected placement or placement of the child, shall be five consecutive days paid leave;

(ii) who has not completed at least one year of continuous employment on the date of expected placement or placement of the child, shall be five consecutive days unpaid leave.”

6:12p.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

6:13p.m. – Senator L.K. Simmons

6:15p.m. – Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson

6:16p.m. – Senator L.F. Bell

6:18p.m. – Clause 3 as printed was objected to by Senator V.J. Cunningham, Senator D.H. Rogers and Senator T.J.D. Smith.

6:19p.m. – Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson

6:19p.m. – Senator V.J. Cunningham

6:20p.m. – Senator L.K. Simmons (P.O.O)

6:20p.m. – Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson (P.O.O)

Senator V.J. Cunningham’s proposed Amendment to Clause 3 was Defeated on Division with a vote of 3 Ayes to 8 Nays.

AYES: Senator V.J. Cunningham, Senator D.H. Rogers, Senator T.J.D. Smith.

NAYS: Senator L.F. Bell, Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar, Senator M.G. Fubler, Senator L.K. Simmons,

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson, Senator T.O.P. Tannock. Senator R.J. Wight, Madam President.

Clause 3 was agreed to, as printed.

Senator L.F. Bell moved that the Preamble be approved, which was agreed to.

Senator L.F. Bell moved that the Title stand as part of the Bill which was agreed to.

Senator L.F. Bell moved that the Bill be adopted, which was agreed to.

The Committee rose.

The Senate resumed.

Senator L.F. Bell moved that the Bill be now read a third time, which was agreed to.

Senator L.F. Bell moved that the Bill entitled the “Employment Amendment Act 2026” do now pass, which was Affirmed on Division with a vote of 8 Ayes to 3 Nays.

AYES: Senator L.F. Bell, Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar, Senator M.G. Fubler, Senator L.K. Simmons, Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson, Senator T.O.P. Tannock. Senator R.J. Wight, Madam President.

NAYS: Senator V.J. Cunningham, Senator D.H. Rogers, Senator T.J.D. Smith.

The Bill was accordingly passed and ordered to be laid before His Excellency the Governor for His Excellency’s assent.

**6:29p.m.**

Senator M.G. Fubler moved that the provisions of Standing Order 25 be granted so that Senate may now proceed with the Second Reading of the Public Bill entitled the “Motor Car (Licence Duties Reduction) Amendment Act 2026”, which was agreed to.

With the Governor’s recommendation and in accordance with section 36(3) of the Bermuda Constitution, Senator M.G. Fubler moved that the Public Bill entitled the “Motor Car (Licence Duties Reduction) Amendment Act 2026”; be now read the second time, which was agreed to.

Senator M.G. Fubler spoke on the Bill.

6:33p.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

6:34p.m. – Senator T.J.D. Smith

6:35p.m. – Senator V.J. Cunningham

6:38p.m. – Senator R.J. Wight

6:39p.m. – Senator M.G. Fubler replied.

The Bill was accordingly read a second time.

Senator M.G. Fubler moved that Standing Order 26 be suspended in respect of this Bill, which was agreed to.

Senator M.G. Fubler moved that the Bill be now read a third time, which was agreed to.

The Bill was accordingly read a third time.

Senator M.G. Fubler moved that the Bill entitled the “Motor Car (Licence Duties Reduction) Amendment Act 2026” do now pass, which was agreed to.

The Bill was accordingly passed and ordered to be laid before His Excellency the Governor for His Excellency’s assent.

**Congratulations and/or Obituary Speeches**

**6:43p.m.**

Senator T.O.P. Tannock offered condolences to the family of the late Ms. Cynthia Lottimore.

Senator V.J. Cunningham offered condolences to the Rego family after the passing of Mr. Elias and Mrs. Judith Rego. She also offered condolences to the family of the late Ms. Tare Brangman. Senator Cunningham congratulated the Bermuda Business Development Agency on a successful Risk Summit – Future Leaders Forum. She congratulated Ms. Sophia Greaves on being awarded Woman of the Year by WiRe. She also congratulated Ms. Cathy Duffy on being the first person named as an Insurance Professor and Chair at the Bermuda College.

Senator the Hon. Crystal C. Caesar congratulated West End Primary School on their celebration of World Book Day, Elliot Primary on

their Career Day and the Bermuda Institute on their Science Fair. She also congratulated all recent inductees of Honorary Fellows at the Bermuda College, highlighting Madam President and Ms. Tammy Richardson Augustus.

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson associated with the congratulations extended to Madam President. She congratulated Ms. Latisha Lister-Burgess on being named Woman of Year and Teen of the Year Award to Miss Callahj Simons by the Women’s Resource Centre. Minister Wilkerson offered condolences to the family of the late Mr. Burton Cox and the family of the late Ms. Cheryl Wade. She congratulated her granddaughter Diamond Morris on taking First Place in every event she competed in on her Sports Day.

Senator M.G. Fubler associated with the condolences offered to the family of the late Ms. Cynthia Lottimore. He offered condolences to the family of the late Mr. Rudolph Fubler. Senator Fubler offered congratulations to the performers at the Premier’s Concert. He also congratulated the BEDC on a successful Small Business Expo as well as the Bermuda Tourism Authority (BTA) on hosting the inaugural Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) Air Connectivity Summit. He congratulated the Bermuda Davis Cup team on achieving historic success by defeating Georgia in February 2026, qualifying for the World Group II playoffs. Senator Fubler congratulated Ms. Kendall Adams on winning the 2026 Bermuda Idol competition. He congratulated the Women’s U-17 Concacaf team on a great run.

Senator T.J.D Smith offered condolences to the family of the late Mrs. Simmons from Ord Road and the families of the late Mr. Michael Lindo and Ms. Vera DeShields. He congratulated the Boys U-17 National Team who played well in Honduras. He congratulated his son, Roman, on being offered a tryout with a professional team. Senator Smith congratulated all of Bermuda’s athletes who have qualified to compete at the CARIFTA Games. He congratulated Paget Primary on an outstanding Black History Month presentation. He associated with the congratulations offered to Diamond Morris on her recent Sports Day wins.

Senator L.K. Simmons associated with the congratulations offered to both Ms. Latisha Lister-Burgess on being named Woman of Year and Teen of the Year Award to Miss Callahj Simons by the Women’s Resource Centre. She also associated

with the congratulations offered to Madam President on being inducted as an Honorary Fellow at the Bermuda College. Senator Simmons congratulated all of the student participants at their recent Sports Days including Cedarbridge Academy and Berkeley Institute.

**7:06p.m.**

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson moved that, at its rising, the Senate adjourn to Monday, 23rd March 2026 – which was agreed to.

7:06p.m. – Senator L.K. Simmons

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson moved that the Senate do now adjourn – which was agreed to.

**7:08p.m.**

Adjourned until Monday, 23rd March 2026.

**PRESIDENT**

**ORDERS OF THE DAY**

**Monday – 23rd March 2026**

(1) Resolution into Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the “Appropriation Act 2026”, together with the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the Financial Year 2026/2027  
{Governor’s Recommendation Signified}

(2) Second Reading of the “Payroll Tax Amendment and Validation Act 2026” – Hon. Crystal C. Caesar, Spokesperson for Finance  
{Governor’s Recommendation Signified}

(3) Consideration of the “Government Authorities (Fees) Amendment Order 2026” – Senator the Hon. Crystal C. Caesar, Spokesperson for Finance  
{Governor’s Recommendation Signified}