

BERMUDA

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SENATE

SESSION OF 2025 - 2026

No. 24

WEDNESDAY, 3rd JUNE 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.

On the motion of Senator R.J. Wight, the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday, 20th May 2026 were taken as read and confirmed.

10:05a.m.

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar presented for the information of Senate the “Premier, Ministers and Opposition Leader Personal Staffs Act 2019 – Annual Report March 2026”

10:06a.m.

Senator L.F. Bell presented for the information of Senate the “Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2025 – Births, Marriages, Domestic Partnerships and Deaths”.

10:07a.m.

Senator M.G. Fubler presented for the information of Senate the “Bermuda Airport Authority – 2023 – 2024 Annual Report”.

Ministerial Statements

10:07a.m.

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson, as Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, made a Ministerial Statement entitled “CFATF 62nd Plenary and Working Group Meeting”.

Introduction of Bills

10:14a.m.

The following Public Bill was brought up from the Honourable House of Assembly, and given its First Reading in the Senate:-

“Public Service Superannuation Amendment Act 2026”

Question Period

10:15a.m.

Senator V.J. Cunningham asked a question to Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson on her Ministerial Statement entitled “CFATF 62nd Plenary and Working Group Meeting”.

Senator V.J. Cunningham asked a supplementary question.

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson replied.

Senator T.O.P. Tannock asked a question.

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson replied.

Senator Lauren F. Bell to provide Oral and Written Response to Parliamentary Questions by Senator David H. Rogers.

*1. Can the Junior Minister please inform the Senate how many entities have been invited or approved to participate in the procurement process including the anticipated appointment date for the reviewer and the anticipated completion date for the final report?

*2. Can the Junior Minister please inform the Senate what the current average length of delay to discharge is for patients in acute care beds who have been assessed as medically fit for discharge?

3. Can the Junior Minister please inform the Senate whether the Ministry of Health or the Bermuda Hospitals Board has established measurable operational targets for reducing Emergency Department boarding, hallway patient care, delayed discharges, and acute care bed days lost, and if so, can the Junior Minister please provide the specific targets and timelines attached to each measure?

ANSWER: The line of questioning indicates familiarity with internal operational matters that are not ordinarily in the public domain. The Government does not comment on, or disclose, information arising from confidential operational discussions within the hospital system. In accordance with established principles of confidentiality and the public interest, I am therefore unable to provide a response to this question.

Senator Lauren F. Bell to provide Oral Response to Parliamentary Questions by Senator Victoria J. Cunningham.

*1. Can the Junior Minister please inform the Senate what the current average length of stay in the Emergency Department is for admitted patients, and how that figure compares to the benchmarks used by the Bermuda Hospitals Board?

*2. Can the Junior Minister please inform the Senate whether any formal analysis has been conducted on the proportion of Emergency Department presentations that could be redirected to primary or community care settings, and if so, what that analysis found?

Senator Lauren F. Bell to provide Oral and Written Response to Parliamentary Questions by Senator Tarik J.D. Smith.

*1. Can the Junior Minister please inform the Senate what measurable improvements have been recorded to date as a result of the implementation of a discharge lounge, Bed Capacity Management Plan, and enhanced discharge processes?

*2. Can the Junior Minister please inform the Senate how many additional skilled nursing or long-term care beds are currently funded, approved for development, or under active construction or expansion given the projection that

Bermuda will require approximately 365 skilled nursing facility beds by 2035?

3. Can the Junior Minister please inform the Senate whether the Ministry of Health or the Bermuda Hospitals Board has established measurable operational targets for reducing Emergency Department boarding, hallway patient care, delayed discharges, and acute care bed days lost, and if so, can the Junior Minister please provide the specific targets and timelines attached to each measure?

ANSWER: Yes. The Bermuda Hospitals Board's principal operational target is 6 hours for boarding. Boarding is the time from the decision to admit a patient to their transfer into an inpatient bed, consistent with the standard used by the US Centres for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Boarding is the main measure of Emergency Department flow. Because hallway patient care, delayed discharges, and acute care bed days lost are all driven by the same shortage of inpatient beds, they are managed together under this single target rather than through separate published figures. It should be mentioned that unlike our North American counterparts, we are the only emergency department in the country and have no options to transfer patients to other hospital facilities other than overseas.

Senator L.F. Bell informed Senate, pursuant to Standing Order 65(4)(k), the information is already in the public domain.

- 10:28a.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock (P.O.C)
- 10:30a.m. – Senator L.K. Simmons (P.O.C)
- 10:30a.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock (P.O.C)
- 10:30a.m. – Senator L.K. Simmons (P.O.I)

- 10:31a.m. – Senator R.J. Wight
- 10:31a.m. – Senator L.K. Simmons (P.O.O)

10:32a.m. – Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar

- 10:34a.m. – Senator V.J. Cunningham
- 10:34a.m. – Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar (P.O.O)

10:35a.m. – Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson

10:38a.m.

Madam President ruled that as the information is determined to already be in the public domain,

pursuant to Standing Order 65(4)(k), Question Period was concluded.

Madam President advised Senators she would consider establishing a Senate Rules Committee to undertake a review of Senate Standing Orders.

Orders of the Day

10:38a.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 “Public Service Superannuation Amendment Act 2026”, which was agreed to.

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

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

10:45a.m. – Senator V.J. Cunningham

10:46a.m. – Senator R.J. Wight

10:47a.m. – Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar replied.

10:52a.m. – Senator R.J. Wight

10:52a.m. – Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar replied.

10:53a.m. – Senator R.J. Wight

The Bill was accordingly read a second time.

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

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar moved that the Bill be now read a third time, which was agreed to.

The Bill was accordingly read a third time.

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar moved that the Bill entitled the “Public Service Superannuation 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

10:57a.m.

Senator R.J. Wight offered condolences to the family of the late Mr. Jack Chiappa.

Senator L.K. Simmons congratulated the Department of Culture on the Bermuda Day celebrations and all the parade participants, including Cedarbridge Academy and the team who provided the truck and helped build their float.

Senator V.J. Cunningham congratulated the Bermuda Captive Network who are currently having their annual Bermuda Captive Conference. She congratulated Kajali Jean-Marie on winning the KPMG Captive Scholarship. She associated with the congratulations offered to Cedarbridge Academy on their float. Senator Cunningham congratulated all the participants of the Bermuda Half Marathon.

Senator M.G. Fubler associated with the congratulations offered to both the Department of Culture and the participants of the Bermuda Half Marathon. He highlighted the runner who ran wearing the bear mascot costume for Warwick Academy. He also congratulated all the participants of Spring Into the Arts. Senator Fubler congratulated Vernon Temple AME Church on celebrating 149 years and 100 years in their current location.

Senator T.J.D. Smith offered condolences to his family on the passing of his great aunt, Mrs. Lena Smith. He associated with the congratulations offered to the Department of Culture. Senator Smith congratulated the Muslim community on celebrating Eid-al-Adha and celebrated in prayer at Victoria Park.

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar highlighted the relationship between the Bermuda College and Kean University signin a Memorandum of Understanding between the schools and announced the Kean Bermuda Pathway Scholarship Fund. She associated with the congratulations extended to the Department of Education and the Spring Into the Arts. Minister Caesar congratulated Troika Bermuda on their impressive performances.

Senator L.F. Bell associated with the congratulations offered to the Department of Culture and the Bermuda Day celebrations. She congratulated the Hon. Jason Hayward, JP, MP and Minister of Economy and Labour who recently hosted a post-Women's Day tea held at Coco Reef. Senator Bell congratulated the Bahamas Progressive Liberal Party on their recent re-election.

Madam President associated with the congratulations to the Department of Culture and those who participated in the Bermuda Day Parade.

10:57a.m.

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson moved that, at its rising, the Senate adjourn to Wednesday, 17th June 2026 – which was agreed to.

11:16a.m – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

11:18a.m. – Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson (P.O.O)

11:19a.m. – Senator V.J. Cunningham

11:20a.m. – Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson (P.O.O)

11:21a.m. – Senator L.K. Simmons (P.O.C)

11:21a.m. – Senator T.J.D. Smith

11:24a.m. – Senator L.K. Simmons

11:27a.m. – Senator M.G. Fubler

11:42a.m

Adjourned until Wednesday, 17th June 2026.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Wednesday – 17th June 2026

NIL

PRESIDENT