

BERMUDA

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SENATE

SESSION OF 2025 - 2026

No. 25

WEDNESDAY, 17th JUNE 2026

PRESENT:

Senator the Hon. Mrs. J.E. DILLAS-WRIGHT,
M.B.E., J.P. - 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

ABSENT:

Senator R.J. WIGHT – VICE PRESIDENT

10:08a.m.

Senator the Hon. The President asked Senators to observe a moment of silence in memory of the late Hon. Sir John W.D. Swan, KBE, JP.

10:09a.m.

Senator T.O.P. Tannock moved that the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday, 3rd June 2026 be taken as read, which was objected to.

10:10a.m. – Senator D.H. Rogers

10:10a.m. – Senator M.G. Fubler (P.O.O)

10:12a.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

10:13a.m. – Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson

10:14a.m.

Senator T.O.P. Tannock moved that the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday, 3rd June 2026 be deferred, which was agreed to.

10:15a.m.

Madam President announced that Senator R.J. Wight would be absent from today's sitting.

Announcements

10:15a.m.

Senator L.K. Simmons presented for the information of Senate the "Regulatory Authority of Bermuda – Annual Report 2020 – 2021".

10:15a.m.

Senator L.K. Simmons presented for the information of Senate the "Cost of Living (Essential Commodities) Amendment Regulations 2026" as made by the Minister responsible for consumer affairs, in exercise of the power conferred by section 10E of the Cost-of-Living Commission Act 1974.

10:16a.m.

Senator L.F. Bell presented for the information of Senate "The Proposed Introduction of Cooperative Legislation in Bermuda".

Notices of Motion

10:16a.m.

Senator M.G. Fubler presented for the consideration of Senate the "Tourism Investment (Rosewood Bermuda) Order 2026" proposed to be made by the Minister responsible for tourism, under section 3 of the Tourism Investment Act 2017 together with the written agreement of the Minister of Finance, in exercise of the power conferred by section 5 of the Tourism Investment Act 2017; and gave notice that at a later point in the meeting he would move that the said draft Order be approved.

10:17a.m.

Senator M.G. Fubler presented the following Motion and gave notice that he would propose to move the Motion at a later point in the meeting:

"BE IT RESOLVED, in accordance with section 2(1)(a) of the Acquisition of Land Act 1970, that this Honourable House approve the purchase of the Compass Point Building together with all land

appurtenant thereto, situate at 9 Bermudiana Road, Pembroke”.

Ministerial Statement

10:18a.m.

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar, as Minister of Education, made a Ministerial Statement entitled “Update on the Progress of the Public School System Transformation Programme”.

Introduction of Bills

10:27a.m.

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

“Retail Shops (Temporary Customs Duty Relief for Capital Investments) Amendment Act 2026”

“Payroll Tax Amendment (No. 2) Act 2026”

“Electricity Amendment Act 2026”

Question Period

10:29a.m.

Senator V.J. Cunningham asked a question to Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar on her Ministerial Statement entitled “Update on the Progress of the Public School System Transformation Programme”.

Senator V.J. Cunningham asked a supplementary question.

Senator V.J. Cunningham asked a second question.

Senator V.J. Cunningham asked a third question.

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar replied.

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

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

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

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar replied.

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

Senator D.H. Rogers asked a question.

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar replied.

10:48a.m. – Senator D.H. Rogers (P.O.I)

10:49a.m. – Senator D.H. Rogers (P.O.I)

Senator V.J. Cunningham asked a supplementary question.

Senator V.J. Cunningham asked a second supplementary question.

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar replied.

Orders of the Day

11:00a.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 “Retail Shops (Temporary Customs Duty Relief for Capital Investments) Amendment Act 2026”, which was agreed to.

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar moved that the Public Bill entitled the “Retail Shops (Temporary Customs Duty Relief for Capital Investments) Amendment Act 2026” be now read the second time, which was agreed to.

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

11:06a.m.

Madam President acknowledged the presence of Mr. James Amos, Assistant Collector of Customs, in the Chamber.

11:06a.m. – Senator V.J. Cunningham

11:08a.m. – Senator D.H. Rogers

11:11a.m. – Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar replied.

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 objected to.

The Bill was accordingly read a third time.

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar moved that the Bill entitled the “Retail Shops (Temporary Customs Duty Relief for Capital Investments) 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.

11:15a.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 “Payroll Tax Amendment (No. 2) Act 2026”, which was agreed to.

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar moved that the Public Bill entitled the “Payroll Tax Amendment (No. 2) Act 2026” be now read the second time, which was agreed to.

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

11:18a.m. – Senator T.J.D. Smith

11:20a.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

11:21a.m. – Senator V.J. Cunningham

11:22a.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

11:23a.m. – Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson

11:24a.m. – Senator D.H. Rogers (P.O.O)

11:26a.m. – Senator V.J. Cunningham

11:27a.m. – Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson

11:28a.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

11:28a.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

11:29a.m. – Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar replied.

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 objected to.

The Bill was accordingly read a third time.

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar moved that the Bill entitled the “Payroll Tax Amendment (No. 2) 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.

11:31a.m.

Senator L.K. Simmons 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 “Electricity Amendment Act 2026”, which was agreed to.

Senator L.K. Simmons moved that the Public Bill entitled the “Electricity Amendment Act 2026”; be now read the second time, which was agreed to.

Senator L.K. Simmons spoke on the Bill.

11:54a.m.

Madam President acknowledged the presence of the Hon. Alexa N.H. Lightbourne, JP, MP, Minister of Home Affairs in the Public Gallery.

11:54a.m.

Madam President acknowledged the presence of Mr. Adrian Hall, Director of Energy, in the Chamber.

11:54a.m. – Senator V.J. Cunningham

11:59a.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

12:01p.m. – Senator D.H. Rogers

12:02p.m. – Senator M.G. Fubler (P.O.O)

12:03p.m. – Senator L.K. Simmons (P.O.O)

12:04p.m. – Senator L.K. Simmons (P.O.O)

12:05p.m. – Senator L.K. Simmons (P.O.O)

12:06p.m. – Senator M.G. Fubler

12:10p.m. – Senator D.H. Rogers (P.O.C)

12:15p.m. – Senator D.H. Rogers

12:15p.m. – Senator M.G. Fubler (P.O.C)

12:16p.m. – Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson

12:30p.m. – Senator L.K. Simmons replied.

The Bill was accordingly read a second time.

Senator L.K. Simmons moved that Standing Order 26 be suspended in respect of this Bill, which was agreed to.

Senator L.K. Simmons moved that the Bill be now read a third time, which was objected to by Senator V.J. Cunningham, Senator D.H. Rogers and Senator T.J.D. Smith.

The motion was affirmed on Division with a vote of 6 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 T.O.P. Tannock.

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

The Bill was accordingly read a third time.

Senator L.K. Simmons moved that the Bill entitled the “Electricity Amendment Act 2026” do now pass, which was objected to Senator V.J. Cunningham, Senator D.H. Rogers and Senator T.J.D. Smith.

The motion was affirmed on Division with a vote of 6 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 T.O.P. Tannock.

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

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

12:49p.m.

Senator the Hon. The President noted a Procedural Error that occurred on Third Reading of the “Electricity Amendment Act 2026”.

She was advised by the Clerk on the procedure on the Third Reading of Bills and it was determined that S.O. 35, in particular, applies on the Third Reading motion. S.O. 35 reads as follows:

“35. A Bill having passed through the Committee of the whole Senate, or by leave of the Senate, having been read a second time without referral to the Committee of the whole Senate, may forthwith be read a third time and passed unless at least three Members object to the motion for the third reading, in which case the third reading shall be deferred to the next day of meeting.”

In accordance with S.O. 35, once there had been objection from at least three Senators, the correct procedure would have been for the President to recite the provisions of S.O. 35 requiring the Third Reading to be carried over to the next meeting. At that point, Senate could have agreed to carry over the Third Reading or the Senator-In-Charge (or another Senator) could have taken the option of moving to have S.O. 35 suspended. If that motion was approved, Senate could have then gone on to do the Third Reading motion on the Bill.

In order to correct the Procedural Error, we must rescind the Third Reading vote on the Bill, such that the Junior Minister in Charge can now re-put the Third Reading motion and Senate can proceed from that point.

Toward that end, Madam President moved that the previous Third Reading of the Bill entitled the “Electricity Amendment Act 2026”, be rescinded, which was agreed to.

12:49p.m.

Senator L.K. Simmons moved that Standing Order 35 be suspended, which was objected to by Senator V.J. Cunningham, D.H. Rogers and T.O.P. Tannock.

The motion was affirmed on Division with a vote of 6 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, Madam President.

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

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

The Bill was accordingly read a third time.

Senator L.K. Simmons moved that the Bill entitled the "Electricity 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.

12:50p.m.

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

2:16p.m.

Senate resumed.

2:16p.m.

Senator M.G. Fubler moved that the provisions of Standing Order 71(2) be suspended so that Senate may now proceed with consideration of the "Tourism Investment (Rosewood Bermuda) Order 2026", which was agreed to.

Senator M.G. Fubler moved that Senate do now take under consideration the "Tourism Investment (Rosewood Bermuda) Order 2026" proposed to be made by the Minister responsible for tourism, under section 3 of the Tourism Investment Act 2017 together with the written agreement of the Minister of Finance, in exercise of the power conferred by section 5 of the Tourism Investment Act 2017, which was agreed to.

Senator M.G. Fubler spoke on the Order.

2:22p.m. – Senator V.J. Cunningham

2:25p.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

2:26p.m. – Senator M.G. Fubler replied.

2:29p.m. – Senator V.J. Cunningham

2:30p.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

2:30p.m. – Senator M.G. Fubler (P.O.C)

2:31p.m. – Senator M.G. Fubler (P.O.I)

2:34p.m.

Senator M.G. Fubler moved that the said draft Order be approved and that the following Message be sent to His Excellency the Governor:-

"MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY:

The Senate, having had under consideration the draft Order entitled the "Tourism Investment (Rosewood Bermuda) Order 2026" proposed to be made by the Minister responsible for tourism, under section 3 of the Tourism Investment Act 2017 together with the written agreement of the Minister of Finance, in exercise of the power conferred by section 5 of the Tourism Investment Act 2017, has the honour to inform Your Excellency that the Senate has approved the said draft Order."

-- which was agreed to and ordered accordingly.

2:35p.m.

Senator M.G. Fubler moved that Senate do now take under consideration the following Motion:

"BE IT RESOLVED, in accordance with section 2(1)(a) of the Acquisition of Land Act 1970, that this Honourable House approve the purchase of the Compass Point Building together with all land appurtenant thereto, situate at 9 Bermudiana Road, Pembroke."

-- which was agreed to.

2:43p.m.

Madam President acknowledged the presence of Mr. Stephen Symons, Policy Analyst for the Minister of Public Works and Environment, in the Chamber.

2:44p.m. – Senator V.J. Cunningham

2:45p.m. – Senator D.H. Rogers

2:46p.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

2:47p.m. – Senator M.G. Fubler (P.O.O)

2:49p.m. – Senator M.G. Fubler replied.

2:50p.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

2:51p.m. – Senator M.G. Fubler replied.

2:54p.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

2:54p.m.

Senator M.G. Fubler moved that the motion be approved, which was agreed to.

Congratulations and/or Obituary Speeches

2:55p.m.

On behalf of Senator R.J. Wight, Senator T.O.P. Tannock offered condolences to the family of the late Hon. Sir John W.D. Swan, KBE, JP.

Senator V.J. Cunningham congratulated the organisers of the King's Birthday Parade, which is a wonderful celebration of Bermuda's uniformed services. She also congratulated the newly retired Archdeacon Emeritus, the Venerable Andrew Doughty. She congratulated the organisers of the Carnival weekend. Senator Cunningham spoke on the ABIR student intern reception celebrating over 100 interns. She also celebrated the well attended Athene Life Career Expo. She encouraged all to attend the Public Service Career Fair at Pier Six. Senator Cunningham sent good luck to England's World Cup team and wished all fathers a Happy Fathers' Day this upcoming Sunday.

Senator L.K. Simmons offered condolences to the family of the late Ms. Jeanette Burgess.

Senator D.H. Rogers offered congratulations to the graduates of Bermuda Institute with special congratulations to his honorary goddaughter Jasmine Showers. He also offered congratulations to the graduates of Howard University. Senator Rogers also spoke to Bermuda's Women's International football team.

Senator M.G. Fubler associated with the condolences to the family of the late Ms. Jeanette Burgess. He also associated with the congratulations to Bermuda's Women's International football team and the organisers of Carnival. Senator Fubler congratulated Sakari Famous on beating her own high jump record.

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson associated with the condolences to the family of the late Ms.

Jeanette Burgess. She also associated with congratulating the ABIR interns.

Madam President associated with the congratulations to the organisers of the King's Birthday Parade and best wishes to the retired Archdeacon Emeritus, the Venerable Andrew Doughty.

3:13p.m.

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson moved that, at its rising, the Senate adjourn to Wednesday, 1st July 2026 – which was agreed to.

3:13p.m

Adjourned until Wednesday, 1st July 2026.

PRESIDENT

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Wednesday – 1st July 2026

NIL