

Proceedings
of the
Honourable House of Assembly
Session of 2025-2026

No. 39

Friday, 10th July, 2026

Members Present:

His Honour the Speaker | The Hon. Jache A. K. Adams | Dr. Leroy G. W. Bean | The Hon. E. David G. Burt | Mr. Vance M. E. Campbell | The Hon. L. Craig Cannonier | The Hon. Owen K. Darrell | Dr. Douglas S. J. De Couto | The Hon. Zane J. S. DeSilva | The Hon. Curtis L. Dickinson | The Hon. Rev. Dr. Emily G. A. Dill | The Hon. Lovitta F. Foggo | The Hon. Tinée S. Furbert | The Hon. Jason P. Hayward | Mr. L. M. Robert King | Mr. Dennis J. R. Lister | Mrs. Renée D. L. Ming | Mr. R. Scott Pearman | The Hon. Diallo V. S. Rabain | Mr. Jarion C. Richdson | Mr. Jamahl S. Simmons | Mr. Scott A. Simmons | The Hon. Ben A. Smith | Ms. Linda C. Smith | Mr. H. Kim E. Swan | Ms. Robin S. Tucker | The Hon. Michael A. Weeks | Mr. Paul G. E. Wilmot | The Hon. Kim N. Wilson

This meeting of the House was held at the House Chamber, 3rd Floor, Veritas Place, 65 Court Street, City of Hamilton.

10:13 a.m.

His Honour the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers

10:15 a.m.

Minutes of the Meetings of 12th and 26th June, 2026 were confirmed.

Announcements by the Speaker

His Honour the Speaker informed Members that the Hon. Alexa N. H. Lightbourne, Mr. Neville S. Tyrell, Mr. T. Christopher Famous, the Hon. Wayne L. Furbert and the Hon. Michael M. Fahy, will be absent from today's proceedings.

His Honour the Speaker announced that he had received the "Ombudsman for Bermuda Annual Report 2025" for tabling in the House of Assembly.

Papers and Other Communications to the House

10:17 a.m.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt, Premier and Minister of Finance, read the following communication to His Honour the Speaker: -

"Pursuant to the powers conferred by Section 96 of Constitution, I have the honour to attach and submit for the consideration of the Honourable House of Assembly the **"Supplementary Estimate No. 1 for Financial Year 2026/2027".**

The Hon. T. S. Furbert, Minister of Youth, Social Development and Seniors, read the following communication to His Honour the Speaker: -

"I have the honour to attach and submit for the Information of the Honourable House of Assembly the **"Human Rights Commission Bermuda-Annual Report 2025".**

10:18 a.m.

The Hon. O. K. Darrell, Minister of Tourism and Transport, Culture and Sport, read the following communication to His Honour the Speaker: -

"I have the honour to attach and submit for the Information of the Honourable House of Assembly the **"Civil Aviation (Air Transport Licensing) Regulations 2026"** made by the Minister responsible for aviation, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 18 of the Civil Aviation (Air Transport Licensing) Act 2007.

The Hon. O. K. Darrell, Minister of Tourism and Transport, Culture and Sport, read the following communication to His Honour the Speaker: -

"I have the honour to attach and submit for the Information of the Honourable House of Assembly the **"Tourism Investment (Rosewood Bermuda) Order 2020 Revocation Notice 2026" MPO. Darrell.**

made by the Minister responsible for tourism, in exercise of the power conferred by 6A(1) of the Tourism Investment Act 2017.

Statements by Ministers and Junior Ministers**10:19 a.m.**

Statement entitled “Family Preservation Tier II Program Progress Update” was read by the Hon. T. S. Furbert, Minister of Youth, Social Development and Seniors.

10:24 a.m.

Statement entitled “Human Rights Commission Bermuda-Annual Report 2025” was read by the Hon. T. S. Furbert, Minister of Youth, Social Development and Seniors.

10:31 a.m.

Statement entitled “Implications of International Travel Restrictions on Access to Overseas Medical Care” was read by the Hon. Kim N. Wilson, Minister of Health.

10:37 a.m.

Statement entitled “Advancing Bermuda’s Workforce: Youth Employment and Bermuda Job Connect” was read by the Hon. J. P. Hayward, Minister of Economy and Labour.

Premier’s Questions**10:48 a.m.**

The Hon. B. A. Smith asked the Hon. E. D. G. Burt a question in reference to the population in Bermuda.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt replied.

The Hon. B. A. Smith asked a supplementary question.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt replied.

The Hon. B. A. Smith asked a second supplementary question.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt replied.

The Hon. B. A. Smith asked the Hon. E. D. G. Burt a second question in reference to economic diversification.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt replied.

The Hon. B. A. Smith asked a supplementary question.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt replied.

The Hon. B. A. Smith asked a second supplementary question.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt replied.

The Hon. B. A. Smith asked the Hon. E. D. G. Burt a third question in reference to pension benefits.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt replied.

The Hon. B. A. Smith asked a supplementary question.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt replied.

The Hon. B. A. Smith asked a second supplementary question.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt replied.

11:00 a.m.

The Hon. M. A. Weeks asked the Hon. E. D. G. Burt a question in reference to commitment to providing affordable housing.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt replied.

The Hon. M. A. Weeks asked a supplementary question.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt replied.

The Hon. M. A. Weeks asked a second supplementary question.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt replied.

11:05 a.m.

The Hon. L. C. Cannonier (PoO)

11:06 a.m.

The Hon. L. C. Cannonier (PoO)

Dr. D. S. J. DeCouto (PoO)

11:08 a.m.

Dr. D. S. J. DeCouto (PoO)

11:09 a.m.

Dr. D. S. J. DeCouto asked the Hon. E. D. G. Burt a question in reference to funding in budget for unidentified spending.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt replied.

Dr. D. S. J. DeCouto asked a supplementary question.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt replied.

11:11 a.m.

The Hon. L. C. Cannonier asked the Hon. E. D. G. Burt a question in reference to money spent on the Bermudiana Project.

Mr. W. L. A. Scott (PoO)

11:12 a.m.

The Hon. Z. J. S DeSilva (PoO)

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt replied.

The Hon. L. C. Cannonier asked a supplementary question.

The Hon. M. A. Weeks (PoO)

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt replied.

Question Period

11:19 a.m.

Mr. D. J. R. Lister, Junior Minister of Justice and Finance, provided Written Responses to Parliamentary Questions from the Hon. B. A. Smith:

1. Will the Junior Minister please provide for this Honourable House, for each graduating class of Government senior schools from June 2022 through June 2026, the number of students in that class who were enrolled in Government schools from the commencement of their first year of primary school?
2. Will the Junior Minister please provide for this Honourable House, for each graduating class of Government senior schools from June 2022 through June 2026, the number of students in that class who were enrolled in Government schools from the commencement of their first year of middle school?
3. Will the Junior Minister please provide for this Honourable House, for each graduating class of Government senior schools from June 2022 through June 2026, the number of students in that class who were enrolled in Government schools from the commencement of their first year of senior school?

Mr. D. J. R. Lister, Junior Minister of Justice and Finance, provided Written Responses to Parliamentary Questions from Ms. Robin S. Tucker:

1. Will the Junior Minister please provide for this Honourable House an update on the purchase of the new Electronic Case Management System to support the management of child support payments that was promised in 2024, and the timeline for implementation?
2. Will the Junior Minister please outline for this Honourable House how the ministry is ensuring timely processing, monitoring and enforcement of child maintenance orders while the new Electronic Case Management System remains outstanding, and what safeguards exist to prevent delays or lapses in payments to parents?
3. Will the Junior Minister please confirm for this Honourable House whether the new Electronic Case Management System will integrate with other government databases, including the Tax Commissioner, Immigration, and Social Insurance, so that the Ministry can more effectively identify, track, and enforce unpaid child support obligations?

11:20 a.m.

Mr. D. J. R. Lister, Junior Minister of Justice and Finance, deferred Oral Responses to Parliamentary Questions from Mr. L. M. R. King:

The Hon. D. V. S. Rabain, Minister of Education, provided Oral Responses to Parliamentary Questions from Ms. L. C. Smith:

- *1. Given that much, if not all, of the Planning Department's public services are automated via its portal, will the Honourable Minister please inform this Honourable House about what the Department is doing to ensure that its services are fairly accessible for all of the population, particularly our Seniors and vulnerable persons who cannot easily navigate the Department's technology?

The Hon. D. V. S. Rabain replied.

Ms. L. C. Smith asked a supplementary question.

The Hon. D. V. S. Rabain replied.

Ms. L. C. Smith asked a second supplementary question.

The Hon. D. V. S. Rabain (PoO)

The Hon. D. V. S. Rabain replied.

Dr. D. S. J. De Couto asked a supplementary question.

His Honour the Speaker

The Hon. D. V. S. Rabain replied.

*2. Will the Honourable Minister please inform this Honourable House about how many complaints the Planning Department has received since the pandemic regarding residentially zoned properties being used for commercial purposes, including concerns about increased traffic, storage of commercial materials, and even light industrial activities?

The Hon. D. V. S. Rabain replied.

Ms. L. C. Smith asked a supplementary question.

The Hon. D. V. S. Rabain replied.

Ms. L. C. Smith asked a second supplementary question.

The Hon. D. V. S. Rabain replied.

11:30 a.m.

Dr. D. S. J. De Couto (PoO)

*3. Will the Honourable Minister please provide this Honourable House with an update on the status of future plans for the use of Southlands Park given that the Development Applications Board (DAB) sided with environmental groups and public opposition to having a zipline facility in the park?

The Hon. D. V. S. Rabain replied.

Ms. L. C. Smith asked a supplementary question.

The Hon. D. V. S. Rabain replied.

Ms. L. C. Smith asked a second supplementary question.

The Hon. D. V. S. Rabain replied.

11:35 a.m.

Mr. D. J. R. Lister, Junior Minister of Justice and Finance, provided Oral Responses to Parliamentary Questions from Mr. L. M. R. King:

*1. Will the Junior Minister please inform this Honourable House which recommendations contained within the Department of Corrections Review Panel Report have been fully implemented, which remain outstanding, the reasons for any delays, and the anticipated completion date for each outstanding recommendation?

Mr. D. J. R. Lister replied.

Mr. L. M. R. King asked a supplementary question.

Mr. D. J. R. Lister replied.

Mr. L. M. R. King asked a second supplementary question.

Mr. D. J. R. Lister replied.

*2. Will the Junior Minister please advise this Honourable House what measurable improvements have been achieved since the publication of the Department of Corrections Review Panel Report with respect to:

- (a) the safety and security of correctional officers;
- (b) assaults and violence within correctional facilities;
- (c) staff recruitment and retention;
- (d) inmate rehabilitation outcomes; and
- (e) recidivism?

Mr. D. J. R. Lister replied.

Mr. L. M. R. King asked a supplementary question.

Mr. D. J. R. Lister replied.

*3. Will the Junior Minister please inform this Honourable House whether the Government has sought independent implementation oversight or technical assistance from His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service or another internationally recognized corrections authority to ensure that the recommendations of the Department of Corrections Review Panel Report are fully implemented and consistent with international best practice and, if not, why not?

Mr. D. J. R. Lister replied.

Mr. L. M. R. King asked a supplementary question.

Mr. D. J. R. Lister replied.

11:47 a.m.

Ms. R. S. Tucker asked the Hon. T. S. Furbert a question in reference to the Ministerial Statement entitled "Family Preservation Tier II Program Progress Update".

The Hon. T. S. Furbert replied.

Ms. R. S. Tucker asked a second question.

The Hon. T. S. Furbert replied.

Ms. R. S. Tucker asked a supplementary question.

The Hon. T. S. Furbert replied.

Ms. R. S. Tucker asked a third question.

The Hon. T. S. Furbert replied.

Ms. R. S. Tucker asked a supplementary question.

The Hon. T. S. Furbert replied.

Ms. R. S. Tucker asked a second supplementary question.

The Hon. T. S. Furbert replied.

11:52 a.m.

Mr. L. M. R. King asked a question.

The Hon. T. S. Furbert replied.

Mr. L. M. R. King (PoO)

Mr. L. M. R. King asked a supplementary question.

The Hon. T. S. Furbert replied.

Mr. L. M. R. King asked a second supplementary question.

The Hon. T. S. Furbert replied.

Mr. L. M. R. King asked a second question.

The Hon. T. S. Furbert replied.

Mr. L. M. R. King asked a supplementary question.

The Hon. T. S. Furbert replied.

12:00 p.m.

Mr. L. M. R. King asked the Hon. T. S. Furbert a question in reference to the Ministerial Statement entitled "Human Rights Commission Bermuda-Annual Report 2025".

The Hon. T. S. Furbert replied.

Mr. L. M. R. King asked a second question.

The Hon. T. S. Furbert replied.

Mr. L. M. R. King asked a supplementary question.

The Hon. T. S. Furbert replied.

Mr. L. M. R. King asked a third question.

The Hon. T. S. Furbert replied.

Mr. L. M. R. King asked a supplementary question.

The Hon. T. S. Furbert replied.

12:05 a.m.

Mr. R. S. Pearman asked the Hon. K. N. Wilson a question in reference to the Ministerial Statement entitled "Implications of International Travel Restrictions on Access to Overseas Medical Care".

The Hon. K. N. Wilson replied.

Congratulatory and Obituary Speeches

(Please refer to the House Hansard)

12:07 p.m. – Mr. H. K. E. Swan

12:10 p.m. – Mr. D. J. R. Lister

12:13 p.m. – Mr. D. V. Robinson

12:16 p.m. – The Hon. L. F. Foggo

12:19 p.m. – The Hon. B. A. Smith

12:21 p.m. – The Hon. M. A. Weeks

12:24 p.m. – The Hon. D. V. S. Rabain

12:27 p.m. – The Hon. O. K. Darrell

12:30 p.m. – Dr. D. S. J. De Couto

12:32 p.m.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt moved that the House do now adjourn for lunch, which was agreed to.
The House adjourned for lunch.

2:16 p.m.

The House resumed.

His Honour the Speaker in the Chair.

Congratulatory and Obituary Speeches continued.

2:17 p.m. – Mrs. R. D. L. Ming

2:20 p.m. – The Hon. T. S. Furbert

2:22 p.m. – Ms. R. S. Tucker

2:24 p.m. – His Honour the Speaker

Introduction of Bills**2:25 p.m.**

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt read for the first time by title, Bills entitled:

“Corporate Income Tax Amendment Act 2026”

“Tax Credits Amendment Act 2026”

2:26 p.m.

The Hon. T. S. Furbert read for the first time by its title a Bill entitled the “Human Rights Amendment Act 2026”.

The Hon. K. N. Wilson read for the first time by its title a Bill entitled the “Bermuda Health Council (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 2026”.

The Hon. J. A. K. Adams read for the first time by its title a Bill entitled the “Cost of Living Commission Amendment (No. 2) Act 2026”.

Opposition Bill**2:28 p.m.**

Per the provisions of Standing Order 28 (1), Mr. J. C. Richardson moved for leave to introduce and read a Bill for the first time by its title, which was agreed to.

Mr. J. C. Richardson read for the first time by its title a Bill entitled the “Road Traffic and Motor Car (Road Safety and Penalties) Act 2026”.

Notice of Motion

The Hon. T. S. Furbert gave notice that at the next day of meeting, she proposed to move the following Motion:

“That this Honourable House consider and approve the “Plan to End Homelessness – Ending Homelessness together”, which was tabled in the House of Assembly on 27th March 2026.”

Orders of the Day**2:29 p.m.**

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt, moved that consideration be now given to the Draft Order entitled “Contributory Pensions (Amendment of Contributions and Benefits) Order 2026”, proposed to be made by the Minister responsible for Finance, in exercise of the power conferred by section 37 of the Contributory Pensions Act 1970, which was agreed to.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt spoke on the Order.

2:36 p.m.

Dr. D. S. J. De Couto (PoO)

2:37 p.m.

Dr. D. S. J. De Couto (PoO)

2:39 p.m.

Dr. D. S. J. De Couto (PoO)

2:40 p.m.

Dr. D. S. J. De Couto (PoO)

2:43 p.m.

Dr. D. S. J. De Couto (PoO)

2:51 p.m.

Dr. D. S. J. De Couto

2:55 p.m.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt (PoO)

3:00 p.m.

Mr. H. K. E. Swan

The Hon. L. F. Foggo in the Chair

3:13 p.m.

Mr. D. V. Robinson

3:19 p.m.

The Hon. L. F. Foggo acknowledged the presence of the Attorney General, the Hon. Senator Kim R. Wilkerson in the Public Gallery.

3:20 p.m.

The Hon. J. A. K. Adams

3:25 p.m.

The Hon. Z. J. S. DeSilva

3:33 p.m.

The Hon. T. S. Furbert

3:35 p.m.

His Honour the Speaker in the Chair

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt replied.

3:37 p.m.

Dr. D. S. J. De Couto (PoO)

3:38 p.m.

Dr. D. S. J. De Couto (PoO)

3:40 p.m.

The Hon. L. C. Cannonier (PoO)

3:42 p.m.

Dr. D. S. J. De Couto (PoO)

3:45 p.m.

Dr. D. S. J. De Couto (PoO)

3:47 p.m.

Dr. D. S. J. De Couto (PoO)

3:51 p.m.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt moved that the said draft Order be approved, and that a suitable message be sent to His Excellency the Governor, which was agreed to.

3:52 p.m.

Item #2 on the Orders of the Day was carried over.

Item #3 on the Orders of the Day was carried over.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt made a statement in reference to Item #3 being carried over.

3:54 p.m.

His Honour the Speaker

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt asked for a written ruling.

3:55 p.m.

Mr. R. S. Pearman (PoO)

His Honour the Speaker

The Hon. L. C. Cannonier

3:56 p.m.

His Honour the Speaker

Mr. R. S. Pearman

3:57 p.m.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt (PoO)

His Honour the Speaker

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt (PoO)

His Honour the Speaker

3:58 p.m.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt asked for a written ruling.

His Honour the Speaker

4:00 p.m.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt moved that the House, at its rising, adjourn to Friday, July 17th, 2026, which was agreed to.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt moved that the House do now adjourn, which was agreed to.

4:01 p.m.

The Hon. T. S. Furbert

4:08 p.m.

Mr. D. J. R. Lister

4:23 p.m.

Ms. R. S. Tucker

4:24 p.m.

Mr. J. C. Richardson

4:25 p.m.

The Hon. L. C. Cannonier

4:34 p.m.

The Hon. D. V. S. Rabain

4:36 p.m.

The House adjourned.