Proceedings

of the

Honourable House of Assembly

Session of 2025-2026

No. 44

Friday, 2nd October, 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| The Hon. Zane J. S. DeSilva| The Hon. Curtis L. Dickinson| The Hon. Rev. Dr. Emily G. A. Dill| The Hon. Michael M. Fahy| Mr. T. Christopher Famous| The Hon. Lovitta F. Foggo| The Hon. Tinée S. Furbert| The Hon. Wayne L. Furbert| The Hon. Jason P. Hayward| Mr. L. M. Robert King| The Hon. Alexa. N. H. Lightbourne| Mr. Dennis J. R. Lister| Mrs. Renée D. L. Ming| Mr. R. Scott Pearman| The Hon. Diallo V. S. Rabain| Mr. Dwayne V. Robinson| 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| Mr. Neville S. Tyrrell| The Hon. Michael A. Weeks| The Hon. K. N. Wilson

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

10:01 a.m.

His Honour the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers

10:03 a.m.

Minutes of the Meeting of 25th September, 2026 were deferred.

Announcements by the Speaker

Member: Dr. D. S. J. De Couto and Mr. P. G. E. Wilmot, will be absent from the House of Assembly proceedings.

Papers and Other Communications to the House

10:04 a.m.

The Hon. J. P. Hayward, Minister of Economy and Labour, 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 **"Ministry of Economy and Labour-Bermuda Digital Identity: Using Digital Identity to Improve Access to Services with a Focus on Privacy, Security and Inclusivity".**

The Hon. J. P. Hayward, Minister of Economy and Labour, 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 **"Ministry of Economy and Labour-Economic Investment Residential Certificate Policy 2026".**

Statements by Ministers and Junior Ministers

Statement entitled "Update on the Hardship Fund" was read by the Hon. T. S. Furbert, Minister of Youth, Social Development and Seniors.

10:11 a.m.

Statement entitled "Exploring Digital Identity for Bermuda" was read by the Hon. J. P. Hayward, Minister of Economy and Labour.

10:17 a.m.

Statement entitled "Updates to Bermuda's Economic Investment Residential Certificate Programme" was read by the Hon. J. P. Hayward, Minister of Economy and Labour.

10:22 a.m.

Statement entitled "Consultation on the Draft Development and Planning (General Development) Order 2026" was read by the Hon. D. V. S. Rabain, Minister of Education.

10:33 a.m.

Statement entitled "Tabling of the Education Authority Act 2026" was read by the Hon. D. V. S. Rabain, Minister of Education.

10:47 a.m.

Statement entitled "The Balcony Solar Pilot Programme" was read by the Hon. A. N. H. Lightbourne, Minister of Home Affairs.

10:51 a.m.

Statement entitled "A Proposed Competition Act for Bermuda" was read by the Hon. A. N. H. Lightbourne, Minister of Home Affairs.

10:58 a.m.

Statement entitled "Government Fiscal Performance Update" was read by the Hon. E. D. G. Burt, Premier and Minister of Finance.

11:09 a.m.

Question Period

The Hon. O. K. Darrell, Minister of Tourism and Transport, Culture and Sport, provided Oral Response to Parliamentary Questions from the Hon. L. C. Cannonier:

*1. Will the Honourable Minister please explain to this Honourable House how the $440,000 that he had announced was invested in the Carnival was broken down and allotted to different organizations and service providers?

The Hon. O. K. Darrell noted that the requested information has been publicly disclosed.

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

The Hon. O. K. Darrell replied.

*2. Considering that he had initially estimated there would be approximately $1.2 million in return or thereabouts, will the Honourable Minister please explain to this Honourable House whether he is now prepared to provide more definitive numbers for the return on the $440,000 investment and how much that would be?

The Hon. O. K. Darrell replied.

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

The Hon. O. K. Darrell replied.

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

The Hon. O. K. Darrell replied.

11:14 a.m.

The Hon. Rev. Dr. Emily G. A. Dill, Minister for the Cabinet Office, provided Oral Response to Parliamentary Questions from Mr. Dwayne V. Robinson:

*1. Two Cabinet Ministers have previously given an undertaking to bring Electoral Reform Legislation to this Honourable House by September. Will the Honourable Minister please provide an update for this Honourable House on the current status of the Electoral Reform Legislation?

The Hon. Rev. Dr. E. G. A. Dill replied.

Mr. D. V. Robinson asked a supplementary question.

The Hon. Rev. Dr. E. G. A. Dill replied.

Mr. D. V. Robinson asked a second supplementary question.

The Hon. Rev. Dr. E. G. A. Dill replied.

11:17 a.m.

The Hon. Alexa N. H. Lightbourne, Minister of Home Affairs, provided Oral Response to Parliamentary Questions from Mr. Dwayne V. Robinson:

*1. The Government has incurred substantial legal fees due to the Minister's Integrated Resource Plan 2026 suspension, and the Cost-of-Living Commission Amendment (No.2) Act was not passed by the Legislature. Will the Honourable Minister please inform this Honourable House what is the next step for the Government's Affordability Agenda?

The Hon. A. N. H. Lightbourne replied.

Mr. D. V. Robinson asked a supplementary question.

The Hon. A. N. H. Lightbourne replied.

Mr. D. V. Robinson asked a second supplementary question.

The Hon. A. N. H. Lightbourne replied.

11:21 a.m.

Mr. D. V. Robinson (PoO)

Mr. R. S. Pearman (PoO)

11:22 a.m.

*2. The most recent Narrative Research Bermuda survey of 2026 showed that 81% of respondents supported a referendum on Full Membership of Caricom, and almost 4000 signatures have been added to a petition calling for a referendum. Will the Honourable Minister please confirm for this Honourable House whether she is still opposed to a Referendum on Full membership of Caricom?

The Hon. A. N. H. Lightbourne replied.

Mr. D. V. Robinson asked a supplementary question.

The Hon. A. N. H. Lightbourne replied.

Mr. D. V. Robinson asked a second supplementary question.

The Hon. A. N. H. Lightbourne replied.

11:26 a.m.

The Hon. Zane J. S. DeSilva, Minister of Housing and Municipalities, Written Response to Parliamentary Questions from the Hon. Michael A. Fahy was deferred:

1. On 26th June 26 the Honourable Minister Zane DeSilva. undertook to share with this Honourable House the "rigorous technical and procurement evaluation" conducted by the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee ("AHAC") before certain contracts were given out to Coastal Precast Systems and Preconco Ltd. Will the Honourable Minister please provide this Honourable House with the procurement methodology document(s) and detail the rigorous technical and procurement evaluation utilized by the Bermuda Housing Corporation ("BHC")/Bermuda Land Management Company ("BLMC")/AHAC for the purposes of evaluating proposals made for the projects listed in the Minister's statement to this Honorable House on 26th June 2026?

2. Will the Honourable Minister please provide this Honourable House with a full listing of all proposals received and considered by the AHAC for the developments at Morgan's Point, Victoria Place and Albert Row and Tommy Fox Road to which the Minister referred in his statement of 26th June 2026 to this Honourable House? Including (i) the name of the entities that made proposals, (ii) date(s) the proposal(s) was/were considered by the AHAC, (iii) the overall number of units that the entity was proposing to build, (iv) the cost per square foot of each unit in the proposal(s), and (v) the reason(s) each proposal was either recommended for acceptance or rejection by the AHAC?

3. A statement released to the media dated 21 July 2026, by the Ministry of Housing and Municipalities said, "Following the technical assessment, Committee representatives visited the manufacturing facilities of some vendors to conduct direct evaluations of completed housing installations utilizing the proposed systems, including an on-site inspection of capsule housing units in use to assess performance under actual occupancy and environmental conditions. This formed part of the Committee's broader due diligence process prior to making its recommendations." Will the Honourable Minister please advise this Honourable House of (i) the names of each manufacturer visited by AHAC representatives and/or the Minister, (ii) the date of the visits to the manufacturer by AHAC representatives and/or the Minister, (iii) the identity of the representatives of the manufacturer that the AHAC representatives and/or the Minister met, and (iv) the costs of all travel expenses incurred by BHC/AHAC/BLMC/the Ministry of Housing and Municipalities to attend the meetings with the said manufacturers?

11:27 a.m.

Mr. L. M. R. King asked the Hon. T. S. Furbert a question in reference to the Ministerial Statement entitled "Update on the Hardship Fund".

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 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.

11:33 a.m.

The Hon. T. S. Furbert (PoC)

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.

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

The Hon. T. S. Furbert replied.

11:36 a.m.

Ms. R. S. Tucker asked the Hon. T. S. Furbert a 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 question.

The Hon. T. S. Furbert replied.

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

The Hon. T. S. Furbert replied.

11:43 a.m.

Mr. D. V. Robinson asked the Hon. J. P. Hayward a question in reference to the Ministerial Statement entitled "Updates to Bermuda's Economic Investment Residential Certificate Programme".

The Hon. J. P. Hayward replied.

11:45 a.m.

Mr. L. M. R. King asked the Hon. J. P. Hayward a question.

His Honour the Speaker

The Hon. J. P. Hayward replied.

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

The Hon. J. P. Hayward replied.

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

The Hon. J. P. Hayward replied.

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

The Hon. J. P. Hayward replied.

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

His Honour the Speaker

Mr. L. M. R. King clarified his question.

The Hon. J. P. Hayward replied.

11:53 a.m.

The Hon. B. A. Smith asked the Hon. D. V. S. Rabain a question in reference to the Ministerial Statement entitled "Tabling of the Education Authority Act 2026".

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

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

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

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

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

11:57 a.m.

Mr. L. M. R. King asked the Hon. D. V. S. Rabain a question.

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

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

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

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

His Honour the Speaker

12:02 p.m.

His Honour the Speaker

Mr. D. V. Robinson asked the Hon. A. N. H. Lightbourne a question in reference to the Ministerial Statement entitled "The Balcony Solar Pilot Programme".

The Hon. A. N. H. Lightbourne replied.

Mr. D. V. Robinson asked a supplementary question.

The Hon. A. N. H. Lightbourne replied.

Mr. D. V. Robinson asked a second supplementary question.

12:04 p.m.

The Hon. A. N. H. Lightbourne (Pol)

The Hon. A. N. H. Lightbourne replied.

Mr. D. V. Robinson asked a second question.

The Hon. A. N. H. Lightbourne replied.

12:08 p.m.

Mr. D. V. Robinson asked the Hon. A. N. H. Lightbourne a question in reference to the Ministerial Statement entitled "A Proposed Competition Act for Bermuda".

The Hon. A. N. H. Lightbourne replied.

Mr. D. V. Robinson asked a second question.

The Hon. A. N. H. Lightbourne replied.

Mr. R. S. Pearman asked a question.

The Hon. A. N. H. Lightbourne replied.

Question time expired.

12:11 p.m.

Congratulatory and Obituary Speeches
(Please refer to the House Hansard)

Mr. H. K. E. Swan

12:12 p.m.

Mr. D. J. R. Lister

12:14 p.m.

Mr. L. M. R. King

12:16 p.m.

Introduction of Bills

The Hon. D. V. S. Rabain, read for the first time by its title, a Bill entitled the "Education Authority Act 2026".

The Hon. K. N. Wilson, read for the first time by its title, a Bill entitled the "Health Professionals (Complaints Committees) Amendment Act 2026".

Notices of Motion

Mr R. S. Pearman on behalf of Dr. D. S. J. De Couto gave notice that at the next day of meeting he proposed to move the following Motion:

"That this Honourable House requests the Premier table all outstanding Annual Reports as required by section 9 of the "Premier, Ministers and Opposition Leader Personal Staffs Act 2019"."

His Honour the Speaker acknowledged the presence of former Senator Maurice Foley in the Public Gallery.

12:17 p.m.

Orders of the Day

The Hon. J. A. K. Adams moved that consideration be given to the following Resolution, which was agreed to:

"BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to section 8(3) of the Public Lands Act 1984, that this Honourable House approve the vesting in the Bermuda Land Management Corporation of the Government-owned parcel of land identified on Cadastral Plan Sheet No. 4030/001/28, comprising approximately 0.801 hectares (1.979 acres) at the former Morgans Point site in Southampton Parish and bounded by lands of Caroline Bay Ltd., Sea Express Lane, Tribe Road No. 5, and the Railway Trail."

The Hon. J. A. K. Adams spoke on the Resolution.

12:25 p.m.

Mr. V. M. E. Campbell

His Honour the Speaker

12:26 p.m.

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

12:31 p.m.

The Hon. Z. J. S. DeSilva moved that the House do now adjourn for lunch, which was agreed to.

The House adjourned for lunch.

2:00 p.m.

The House resumed.

His Honour the Speaker in the Chair.

The House continued with the Resolution.

2:01 p.m.

Mr. H. K. E. Swan

2:19 p.m.

Mr. V. M. E. Campbell (PoO)

Mr. V. M. E. Campbell (PoO)

2:25 p.m.

The Hon. J. A. K. Adams replied.

The Resolution was approved.

2:26 p.m.

The Hon. Z. J. S. DeSilva moved that the Bill entitled the "Bermuda Land Management Corporation Amendment Act 2026" be now read a second time, which was agreed to.

The Hon. Z. J. S. DeSilva spoke on the Bill.

2:30 p.m.

The Hon. M. M. Fahy

2:34 p.m.

Mr. D. J. R. Lister

2:42 p.m.

The Hon. Z. J. S. DeSilva replied.

2:46 p.m.

The Bill was committed.

The Hon. L. F. Foggo in the Chair.

The Hon. Z. J. S. DeSilva moved Clauses 1-4, which was agreed to.

Clauses 1-4 were agreed to, as printed.

The Preamble was agreed to.

The Schedule was agreed to.

The Committee rose.

The House resumed.

His Honour the Speaker in the Chair.

The Bill was reported to the House as printed, which was agreed to.

2:49 p.m.

The Hon. K. N. Wilson moved that the Bill entitled the "Health Professionals (Complaints Committees) Amendment Act 2026" be now read a second time, which was agreed to.

The Hon. K. N. Wilson spoke on the Bill.

2:53 p.m.

Mr. R. S. Pearman

2:56 p.m.

The Hon. K. N. Wilson replied.

The Bill was committed.

The Hon. L. F. Foggo in the Chair.

The Hon. K. N. Wilson moved Clauses 1-5, which was agreed to.

3:04 p.m.

Mr. R. S. Pearman

3:06 p.m.

The Hon. K. N. Wilson replied.

Clauses 1-5 were agreed to, as printed.

The Preamble was agreed to.

The Committee rose.

The House resumed.

His Honour the Speaker in the Chair.

The Bill was reported to the House as printed, which was agreed to.

The Hon. Z. J. S. DeSilva moved that the House do now take under consideration the following Motion:

"That this Honourable House consider and approve the Ministry of Housing and Municipalities Report entitled 'Bermuda Affordable Housing Strategy 2025-2035'."

The Hon. Z. J. S. DeSilva spoke on the Motion.

3:17 p.m.

The Hon. M. M. Fahy

4:06 p.m.

Mr. H. K. E. Swan

4:11 p.m.

The Hon. M. M. Fahy (PoO)

4:34 p.m.

Mr. T. C. Famous yielded to Ms. L. C. Smith.

Ms. L. C. Smith

4:38 p.m.

Mr. T. C. Famous

4:53 p.m.

The Hon. T. S. Furbert

5:04 p.m.

The Hon. D. V. S. Rabain

5:09 p.m.

The Hon. L. C. Cannonier (PoO)

5:11 p.m.

The Hon. L. C. Cannonier (PoO)

5:12 p.m.

The Hon. L. C. Cannonier (PoO)

The Hon. L. C. Cannonier (PoO)

5:17 p.m.

The Hon. A. N. H. Lightbourne

5:35 p.m.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt

5:58 p.m.

Mr. T. C. Famous (PoO)

The Hon. L. F. Foggo in the Speaker's Chair.

6:06 p.m.

The Hon. Z. J. S. DeSilva

6:15 p.m.

His Honour the Speaker in the Chair

6:34 p.m.

The Hon. Z. J. S. DeSilva replied.

The Motion was approved.

6:35 p.m.

The Hon. Z. J. S. DeSilva moved that Standing Order 21 be suspended to enable him to move that the Bill entitled "Bermuda Land Management Corporation Amendment Act 2026", be now read a third time, which was agreed to.

On the motion of The Hon. Z. J. S. DeSilva, the Bill entitled "Bermuda Land Management Corporation Amendment Act 2026" was then read a third time by its title only and passed.

6:36 p.m.

The Hon. K. N. Wilson moved that Standing Order 21 be suspended to enable her to move that the Bill entitled "Health Professionals (Complaints Committees) Amendment Act 2026", be now read a third time, which was agreed to.

On the motion of the Hon. K. N. Wilson, the Bill entitled "Health Professionals (Complaints Committees) Amendment Act 2026" was then read a third time by its title only and passed.

6:37 p.m.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt moved that the House, at its rising, adjourn to Friday, October 23rd, 2026, which was agreed to.

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

Mr. T. C. Famous

6:40 p.m.

The Hon. J. A. K. Adams

6:55 p.m.

Mr. H. K. E. Swan

6:58 p.m.

Ms. L. C. Smith in the Speaker's Chair.

7:15 p.m.

Ms. L. C. Smith in the Speaker's Chair.

7:16 p.m.

The House adjourned.