

BERMUDA

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SENATE

SESSION OF 2025 - 2026

No. 27

WEDNESDAY, 15th JULY 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. R.A.R. PERINCHIEF, 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.

Senator the Hon. The President acknowledged the presence of the US Consul General, Ms. Antoinette Hurtado, in the Chamber.

10:05a.m.

Newly appointed Senator Ryan Alwyn Robinson Perinchief, present in the Chamber, made and subscribed to the Affirmation of Allegiance before the Senate.

10:07a.m.

Senator R.J. Wight moved that the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday, 1st July 2026 be taken as read.

Senator L.F. Bell noted a correction on page 1 and page 3.

Senator R.J. Wight moved that subject to the noted corrections, the minutes be confirmed, which was agreed to.

Announcements

10:09a.m.

Senator the Hon. The President presented for the information of Senate the “Ombudsman for Bermuda Annual Report for the year 2025”, submitted in accordance with Section 24 (1) and (3) of the Ombudsman Act 2004.

10:10a.m.

Senator L.K. Simmons presented for the information of Senate “The Human Rights Commission 2025 Annual Report”.

10:11a.m.

Senator M.G. Fubler presented for the information of Senate the “Civil Aviation (Air Transport Licensing) Regulations 2026” as 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.

10:12a.m.

Senator M.G. Fubler presented for the information of Senate the “Tourism Investment (Rosewood Bermuda) Order 2020 Revocation Notice 2026” as made by the Minister responsible for tourism, in exercise of the power conferred by section 6A(1) of the Tourism Investment Act 2017.

Notices of Motion

10:12a.m.

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson presented for the consideration of Senate the “Contributory Pensions (Amendment of Contributions and Benefits) Order 2026” proposed to be made by the Minister of Finance, in exercise of the power conferred by section 37 of the Contributory Pensions Act 1970; and gave notice that at a later point in the meeting she would move that the said draft Order be approved.

Ministerial Statement

10:13a.m.

Senator the Hon K.R. Wilkerson, as Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, made a Ministerial

Statement entitled “Update on the Establishment of the Office of the Public Guardian”.

10:24a.m.

Senator L.K. Simmons, as Junior Minister of Youth, Social Development and Seniors, made a Ministerial Statement entitled “The Journey of Autism Spectrum Disorder Out of School Programmes”.

10:32a.m.

Madam President acknowledged the presence of former MP, Mr. Wayne Perinchief, in the Public Gallery.

10:33a.m.

Senator L.K. Simmons, as Junior Minister of Youth, Social Development and Seniors, made a Ministerial Statement entitled “Human Rights Commission 2025 Annual Report”.

Question Period

10:40a.m.

Senator V.J. Cunningham asked a question to Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson on her Ministerial Statement entitled “Update on the Establishment of the Office of the Public Guardian”.

Senator V.J. Cunningham asked a second question.

Senator the Hon K.R. Wilkerson replied.

Senator V.J. Cunningham asked a third question.

Senator the Hon K.R. Wilkerson replied.

Senator V.J. Cunningham asked a question to Senator L.K. Simmons on her Ministerial Statement entitled “The Journey of Autism Spectrum Disorder Out of School Programmes”.

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

Senator D.H. Rogers asked a question.

Senator L.K. Simmons replied.

Senator V.J. Cunningham asked a supplementary question.

Senator L.K. Simmons replied.

Senator T.O.P. Tannock asked a question to Senator L.K. Simmons on her Ministerial Statement entitled “Human Rights Commission 2025 Annual Report”.

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

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

Senator V.J. Cunningham asked a question.

Senator V.J. Cunningham asked a second question.

Senator the Hon K.R. Wilkerson (P.O.C)

Senator the Hon K.R. Wilkerson replied.

Senator L.K. Simmons replied.

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

Senator L.K. Simmons replied.

Senator Lauren F. Bell to provide Written Response to a Parliamentary Question from Senator Victoria J. Cunningham.

1. The publication of the following reports are currently outstanding: The Health Insurance Department (HID) Year End Review for 2019–2020; The Bermuda Health Council (BHeC) Annual Report for 2023–2024; The 2019 Actuarial Report relating to Bermuda's health insurance system; and The Bermuda Hospitals Board (BHB) 2024 Annual Report. Can the Junior Minister please inform the Senate the reason for their delay in publication and what steps, if any, have been or will be taken to ensure future compliance with the legislative publication and/or tabling requirements?

ANSWER: The Ministry of Health will ensure that the reports referenced are published no later than Q3. We are already working with the relevant teams to strengthen processes and support consistent compliance going forward.

Senator Lauren F. Bell to provide Oral Response to a Parliamentary Question from Senator Victoria J. Cunningham.

*1. No legislation or regulations have been introduced to govern insurer or provider conduct since the Allshores merger completed in 2025. Will

the Junior Minister state whether Government intends to bring forward such legislation, and if so, on what timeline?

Senator L.F. Bell replied.

Senator V.J. Cunningham asked a supplementary question.

Madam President ruled that it was not a supplementary question.

Senator D.H. Rogers asked a supplementary question.

Senator D.H. Rogers (P.O.C)

Senator L.K. Simmons (P.O.O)

Senator D.H. Rogers (P.O.C)

Senator L.K. Simmons (P.O.O)

Madam President ruled that it was not a supplementary question.

Senator Lauren F. Bell to provide Oral Response to a Parliamentary Question from Senator Victoria J. Cunningham.

*1. Can the Junior Minister please inform the Senate the current expected date for the Education Authority legislation to be tabled in the House of Assembly, and advise whether this timeline has changed as a result of the recent change in Minister?

Senator L.K. Simmons replied.

Senator V.J. Cunningham asked a supplementary question.

Senator L.K. Simmons replied.

Senator Lauren F. Bell to provide Written Response to a Parliamentary Question from Senator David H. Rogers.

1. Can the Junior Minister please advise whether the Ministry has undertaken, or intends to undertake, any analysis of the potential healthcare cost implications of full CARICOM membership for Bermuda; and if such analysis exists, will the Junior Minister provide details, including any categories

of treatments, services, or pharmaceuticals considered?

ANSWER: The Government is pursuing Full Membership of CARICOM through a published process: a Green Paper, a national public consultation, and a White Paper. The public consultation on the Green Paper closed on 31 May 2026, and the Government is now reviewing every submission received. As outlined in the Green Paper, the opportunities under consideration, in areas such as care for seniors, health, education and training, market access for Bermudian businesses, food security, and disaster preparedness. Bermuda retains full control of its immigration and work permit framework, and the United Kingdom continues to hold authority over external affairs, defense, and security.

The White Paper will carry the consultation summaries, the United Kingdom's feedback, and the outcomes of the Government's meetings with the CARICOM Secretariat, and it will answer questions raised during the consultation all weighed against a clear standard: whether they benefit Bermudians, strengthen Bermuda, and protect Bermuda's ability to determine its own future. The Government will table the White Paper in due course.

Senator Lauren F. Bell to provide Oral Response to Parliamentary Questions from Senator David H. Rogers.

*1. Government has previously indicated that its rodent strategy is one of reduction and control, rather than eradication. Based on the most recent data available to the Ministry and the Vector Control team, does the Government consider that it has met its quality and performance metrics for vector control, including rodent control, for the current fiscal year?

Senator L.F. Bell replied.

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

Senator D.H. Rogers asked a supplementary question.

Senator L.F. Bell replied.

Senator D.H. Rogers asked a second supplementary question.

Senator the Hon K.R. Wilkerson replied.

Senator L.F. Bell replied.

*2. Can the Junior Minister please advise what assessment, if any, has been made by the Ministry comparing healthcare partnership or cooperation arrangements available to full CARICOM Member States with those currently accessible to Bermuda under its Associate Membership status?

Senator L.F. Bell replied.

Senator Lauren F. Bell to provide Oral Response to a Parliamentary Question from Senator Tarik J.D. Smith.

*1. Following KEMH's announcement that it will cease sending certain tests overseas to external laboratories such as Quest, was the Ministry of Health consulted on or required to approve this decision before implementation?

Senator L.F. Bell replied.

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

Senator D.H. Rogers asked a supplementary question.

11:32a.m.

Madam President acknowledged the presence of Mrs. Shernette Wolffe, former Clerk to the Legislature, in the Public Gallery.

Senator L.F. Bell replied.

Senator T.J.D. Smith asked a supplementary question.

Senator L.K. Simmons replied.

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

Senator the Hon K.R. Wilkerson replied.

Senator Mischa G. Fubler to provide Oral Response to a Parliamentary Question from Senator Tarik J.D. Smith.

*1. The two new fast ferries, MV Cecil Smith and MV Warbaby Fox, have been in public service since

November 2025. Will the Junior Minister please provide an update on the project's performance to date against the cost, environmental and operational claims made at the time of delivery?

Senator M.G. Fubler replied.

Senator T.J.D. Smith asked a supplementary question.

Senator T.J.D. Smith asked a second supplementary question.

Senator M.G. Fubler replied.

Senator L.K. Simmons provided a response to a previous question asked by Senator T.O.P. Tannock.

Orders of the Day

11:52a.m.

Senator the Hon K.R. Wilkerson moved that the provisions of Standing Order 71(2) be suspended so that Senate may now proceed with consideration of the "Contributory Pensions (Amendment of Contributions and Benefits) Order 2026", which was agreed to.

Senator the Hon K.R. Wilkerson moved that Senate do now take under consideration the "Contributory Pensions (Amendment of Contributions and Benefits) Order 2026" proposed to be made by the Minister of Finance, in exercise of the power conferred by section 37 of the Contributory Pensions Act 1970, which was agreed to.

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

12:10p.m. – Senator V.J. Cunningham

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

12:15p.m. – Senator R.J. Wight

12:19p.m.

Madam President acknowledged the presence of Dr. Douglas S.J. De Couto, JP, MP, in the Public Gallery.

12:19p.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

12:21p.m. – Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson replied.

Senator the Hon K.R. Wilkerson 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 Order entitled the “Contributory Pensions (Amendment of Contributions and Benefits) Order 2026” proposed to be made by the Minister of Finance, in exercise of the power conferred by section 37 of the Contributory Pensions Act 1970, has the honour to inform Your Excellency that the Senate has approved the said draft Order.”

-- which was agreed to and ordered accordingly.

Congratulations and/or Obituary Speeches

12:29p.m.

Senator L.K. Simmons offered condolences to the family of the late Mr. Walde Saltus. She also congratulated Dame Flora Duffy on her retirement announcement after a very successful athletic career. Senator Simmons congratulated Isabella Sousa and Olivia Gazzard on winning gold medals at the Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association under-20 Championships. She congratulated Sakari Famous on winning the women's high jump at the Ed Murphey Classic in Memphis, Tennessee.

Senator V.J. Cunningham associated the congratulations offered to Dame Flora Duffy. She congratulated all scholarship recipients who are receiving the news. She wished England's World Cup team the best of luck.

Senator T.O.P. Tannock offered condolences to the family of Ms. Carol Bassett. She congratulated Ajani Robinson on winning the Single Rope Individual Freestyle at the 2026 American Jump Rope National Championships. She congratulated Senator the Hon. Ryan A.R. Perinchief on his appointment to the Senate.

Senator R.J. Wight associated with the congratulations offered to Dame Flora Duffy and Minister Ryan Perinchief.

Senator T.J.D. Smith associated with the condolences extended to the families of the late Mr. Walde Saltus and Ms. Carol Bassett. He associated with the congratulations offered to Minister Ryan Perinchief.

Senator M.G. Fubler associated with the congratulations offered to Dame Flora Duffy as well as Isabella Sousa and Olivia Gazzard. He also congratulated the recipients of the Bermuda Football Association and Bermuda Arts Council scholarships. He congratulated all the End-to-End participants as well as OUTBermuda and PRIDE Bermuda on a successful parade. Senator Fubler offered best wishes to the participants of the upcoming 2026 Central American and Caribbean Games. He congratulated Bermuda Youth Parliament who hosted a debate between current youth parliamentarians and alumni. He also sent congratulations to Lumina Festival's Playbook on Financial Literacy and Investing Programme participants.

Senator L.F. Bell associated with the congratulations offered to Minister Ryan Perinchief. She offered condolences to the family of the late Ms. Wendy Harvey. She also congratulated the Office of the Youth on hosting a successful annual National 18+ Youth Conference.

Senator the Hon K.R. Wilkerson associated with the congratulations offered to Dame Flora Duffy, Minister Ryan Perinchief and both the male and female under-20 Volleyball teams. Minister Wilkerson congratulated the winners of the Bermuda Big Game Classic.

12:50p.m.

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson moved that, at its rising, the Senate adjourn to Wednesday, 15th July 2026 – which was agreed to.

12:50p.m. – Senator the Hon. R.A.R. Perinchief (maiden speech)

1:07p.m. – Senator R.J. Wight

1:09p.m

Adjourned until Wednesday, 22nd July 2026.

PRESIDENT

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Wednesday – 22nd July 2026

NIL