

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

No. 36

Friday, 29th May, 2026

Members Present:

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 | 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. 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. Jarion C. Richardson | 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 | 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.

10:00 a.m.

The Hon. L. F. Foggo in the Chair as Acting Speaker.

Prayers

10:03 a.m.

Minutes of the Meeting of 15th May 2026 were deferred.

Announcements by the Speaker

Madam Acting Speaker informed Members that His Honour the Speaker and the Clerk to the Legislature will be attending the Commons and Overseas Territories Speakers Conference (COTSC) in Cayman Islands and will be absent from today's proceedings.

Papers and Other Communications to the House

10:04 a.m.

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

"I have the honour to attach and submit for the Information of the Honourable House of Assembly the **"Premier, Ministers and Opposition Leader Personal Staffs Act 2019-Annual Report March 2026"**."

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

"I have the honour to attach and submit for the consideration of the Honourable House of Assembly the **"Tourism Investment (Rosewood Bermuda) Order 2026"**, proposed to be made by the Minister responsible for tourism, with the written agreement of the Minister of Finance, in exercise of the power conferred by section 5 of the Tourism Investment Act 2017.

10:05 a.m.

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

"I have the honour to attach and submit for the Information of the Honourable House of Assembly the **"Bermuda Airport Authority-2023-2024 Annual report"**."

10:06 a.m.

The Hon. J. P. Hayward, Minister of Economy and Labour, read the following communication to Madam Acting Speaker: -

"I have the honour to attach and submit for the Information of the Honourable House of Assembly the **"Annual Report of the Registry General for the year ended 31 December 2025- Births, Marriages, Domestic Partnerships and Deaths"**."

Statements by Ministers and Junior Ministers

Statement entitled “Advancing Digital Finance in Bermuda” was read by the Hon. E. D. G. Burt, Premier and Minister of Finance.

10:19 a.m.

Statement entitled “Update on Government Housing Initiatives” was read by the Hon. Z. J. S. DeSilva, Deputy Premier and Minister of Housing and Municipalities.

10:35 a.m.

Statement entitled “The Annual Report of the Registry General 2025” was read by the Hon. J. P. Hayward, Minister of Economy and Labour.

10:41 a.m.

Statement entitled “Pilot Hearing Support Program” was read by the Hon. T. S. Furbert, Minister of Youth, Social Development and Seniors.

10:48 a.m.

Statement entitled “Advancing Disability Inclusion” was read by the Hon. T. S. Furbert, Minister of Youth, Social Development and Seniors.

10:55 a.m.

Statement entitled “Commissioning of New Airport Rescue and Firefighting Vehicles” was read by the Hon. M. A. Weeks, Minister of National Security.

11:01 a.m.

Statement entitled “The Story of US: CARICOM Public Consultation Update” was read by the Hon. A. N. H. Lightbourne, Minister of Home Affairs.

11:14 a.m.

Statement entitled “Reconstitution of the Space and Satellite Advisory Panel” was read by the Hon. A. N. H. Lightbourne, Minister of Home Affairs.

11:22 a.m.

Statement entitled “Grow Local” was read by the Hon. D. V. S. Rabain, Minister for the Cabinet Office and Digital Innovation.

11:27 a.m.

Statement entitled “Strengthening Government Through Strategic Investment” was read by the Hon. J. A. K. Adams, Minister of Public Works and Environment.

11:35 a.m.

Statement entitled “Ending the Silence: Reflections on Mental Health Anti-Stigma Month” was read by the Hon. K. N. Wilson, Minister of Health.

11:41 a.m.

Madam Acting Speaker acknowledged the presence of Mr. Callum Anderson, Member of the UK Parliament in the Public Gallery.

Question Period**11:42 a.m.**

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt, Premier and Minister of Finance, provided Oral Response to Parliamentary Questions from Dr. D. S. J. De Couto:

*1. Will the Honourable Premier and Minister of Finance please provide for this Honourable House the total Government revenue from the Sugar tax (customs duty on sugar) to date broken out by financial year since 2017?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*2. With regard to the Honourable Premier and Minister of Finance’s recent public statement that “Cabinet has approved a framework to allow the Government of Bermuda to accept and invest in digital assets within a clear regulatory structure”, will the Honourable Premier and Minister of Finance please inform this Honourable House on the details of that framework?

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt deferred the question as per Standing Order 17 (9) (a) (viii) as the question was answered in His Ministerial Statement.

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

Madam Acting Speaker

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

3. Will the Honourable Premier and Minister of Finance please provide this Honourable House with copies of the minutes including investment policy decisions or recommendations and investment allocation decisions or recommendations of the Bermuda Public Funds Investment Committee for the 2024/25 and 2025/26 financial years?

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt deferred the question as per Standing Order 18 (3).

11:48 a.m.

Mr. D. J. R. Lister, Junior Minister of Justice and Spokesperson for Education, deferred Written Responses to Parliamentary Questions from the Hon. B. A. Smith, per Standing Order 18 (3): (Answers deferred from March 15th)

1. Will the Honourable Minister please state for this Honourable House the specific statutory provision(s) of the Education Act or any regulations relied upon to justify her intervention in a disciplinary matter at Port Royal Primary School?
2. Will the Honourable Minister please confirm for this Honourable House whether her intervention was issued as a formal directive, and if so, whether that directive was made in writing or recorded in any official Ministry file?
3. Will the Honourable Minister please confirm for this Honourable House the established appeal process for student disciplinary matters was followed in this case, and if not, the basis on which it was set aside?

Mr. D. J. R. Lister, Junior Minister of Justice and Spokesperson for Education, provided Written Responses to Parliamentary Questions from the Hon. B. A. Smith: (Answers deferred to June 12th)

1. Will the Honourable Minister please provide a list of all senior leadership positions within the Ministry of Education and Department of Education for which the substantive holder has announced retirement, resignation, or departure effective during the 2025/26

and 2026/27 academic years, together with the anticipated vacancy date for each position?

2. Will the Honourable Minister please provide details of all formal succession planning initiatives undertaken within the Ministry of Education and Department of Education from 2020-2026?
3. Will the Honourable Minister please provide the number of senior education leadership positions filled in an acting capacity with the length of time for each acting officer, from 2020-2026?

11:49 a.m.

The Hon. J. P. Hayward, Minister of Economy and Labour, provided Written Responses to Parliamentary Questions from the Hon. M. M. Fahy:

1. Will the Honourable Minister please advise this Honourable House of the number of nationals from CARICOM member states who currently hold valid work permits in Bermuda broken down by (i) nationality; (ii) work permit length; (ie one, two, three, four, five year or temporary work permits) (iii) job category for which the permit relates; and (iv) the overall percentage of work permits currently valid in Bermuda that are held by nationals from CARICOM member states?

Madam Acting Speaker informed the Hon. M. M. Fahy that his question is disallowed as per Standing Order 17 (5) (g) (xiii)

2. Will the Honourable Minister please advise this Honourable House of the number of meetings whether in person or by electronic means, that he has had with Ministers from CARICOM member states for substantive discussions on immigration matters over the last 36 months, broken down by date, place and identity of the relevant Minister/CARICOM member states?
3. Will the Honourable Minister please advise this Honourable House of the number of Bermudian nationals who have emigrated to CARICOM member states in the last 36 months, broken down by numbers and the CARICOM member state to which the Bermudian emigrated?

11:51 a.m.

The Hon. J. A. K. Adams, Minister of Public Works and Environment, provided Oral Response to Parliamentary Questions from Mr. L. M. R. King:

*1. Will the Honourable Minister please inform this Honourable House what enforcement measures to date have been executed against the Greenland Farm for the chronic issues related to the farm's operations including, sewage run-off onto and into neighbouring properties and homes, and noxious odors emanating from the farm which negatively impact the surrounding community?

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

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

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

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

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

*2. Will the Honourable Minister please inform this Honourable House what public funds and resources are being utilized to remedy chronic and serious environment problems caused by the privately operated dairy?

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

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

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

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

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

11:58 a.m.

Dr. D. S. J. De Couto asked the Hon. E. D. G. Burt a question in reference to the Ministerial Statement entitled "Advancing Digital Finance in Bermuda".

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

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

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

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

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt continued.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

12:08 p.m.

Ms. R. S. Tucker asked the Hon. Z. J. S. De Silva a question in reference to the Ministerial Statement entitled "Update on Government Housing Initiatives".

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

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

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

Ms. R. S. Tucker re-framed the question.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

12:13 p.m.

The Hon. M. M. Fahy asked a question.

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

The Hon. M. M. Fahy asked a second question.

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

The Hon. M. M. Fahy asked a third question.

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

12:17 p.m.

The Hon. M. M. Fahy asked the Hon. J. P. Hayward a question in reference to the Ministerial Statement entitled “The Annual Report of the Registry General 2025”.

The Hon. J. P. Hayward replied.

The Hon. M. M. Fahy asked a second question.

The Hon. J. P. Hayward replied.

The Hon. M. M. Fahy asked a third question.

The Hon. J. P. Hayward replied.

The Hon. M. M. Fahy asked a supplementary question.

The Hon. J. P. Hayward replied.

12:20 p.m.

Ms. R. S. Tucker asked the Hon. T. S. Furbert a question in reference to the Ministerial Statement entitled “Pilot Hearing Support Program”.

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.

12:25 p.m.

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

The Hon. T. S. Furbert replied.

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

The Hon. T. S. Furbert replied.

12:29 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.

2:00 p.m.

The House resumed.

Madam Acting Speaker in the Chair.

Question Period continued.

2:02 p.m.

Mr. D. V. Robinson asked the Hon. A. N. H. Lightbourne a question in reference to the Ministerial Statement entitled “The Story of US: CARICOM Public Consultation Update”.

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.

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

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

The Hon. M. M. Fahy asked a supplementary question.

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

2:08 p.m.

Madam Acting Speaker acknowledged the presence of former Member of Parliament and Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Cole Simons in the Public Gallery.

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

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

2:09 p.m.

Mr. H. K. E. Swan asked a question.

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

2:11 p.m.

Ms. R. S. Tucker asked a question.

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

2:11 p.m.

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

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.

2:16 p.m.

The Hon. Z. J. S. De Silva asked a question.

Mr. D. V. Robinson (PoO)

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

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

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

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

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

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

2:18 p.m. – Mr. J. C. Richardson

2:19 p.m.- Mr. D. J. R. Lister

2:22 p.m. – The Hon. L. C. Cannonier

2:23 p.m.- The Hon. O. K. Darrell

2:26 p.m.- Dr. D. S. J. De Couto

2:28 p.m. – The Hon. T. S. Furbert

2:30 p.m. - The Hon. M. A. Weeks

2:32 p.m. - Mr. J. S. Simmons

2:35 p.m.- Mr. N. S. Tyrrell

2:37 p.m. – Mr. H. K. E. Swan

2:40 p.m. – Mr. D. V. Robinson

2:41 p.m.- The Hon. A. N. H. Lightbourne

2:44 p.m.- The Hon. E. D. G. Burt

2:46 p.m.- Rev. Dr. E. G. A. Dill

2:48 p.m.- The Hon. D. V. S. Rabain

2:51 p.m.- Madam Acting Speaker

Introduction of Bills

2:52 p.m.

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

“Pensions (Increase) Amendment Act 2026”

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

“Payroll Tax Amendment Act 2026”

2:53 p.m.

The Hon. J. P. Hayward read for the first time by its title a Bill entitled the “Bermuda Immigration and Protection Amendment Act 2026”.

The Hon. A. N. H. Lightbourne read for the first time by its title a Bill entitled the “Electricity Amendment Act 2026”.

Opposition Bill

2:54 p.m.

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

Mr. J. C. Richardson read for the first time by its title a Bill entitled the “Premier, Ministers and Opposition Leader Personal Staffs and Parliamentary Election Amendment Act 2026”.

2:55 p.m.

The Hon. J. A. K. Adams gave notice that at the next day of meeting, he proposed to move 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.””

2:56 p.m.

Orders of the Day

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt, moved that the Bill entitled the “Public Service Superannuation Amendment Act 2026” be now read a second time, which was agreed to.

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

3:00 p.m.

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

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt continued.

3:01 p.m.

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

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt continued.

3:02 p.m.

Dr. D. S. J. De Couto

3:03 p.m.

The Hon. E. D. G. replied.

The Bill was Committed.

Ms. L. C. Smith in the Chair.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt moved Clauses 1-8, which was agreed to.

3:09 p.m.

Clauses 1-8 were agreed to, as printed.

The Preamble was agreed to.

The Committee rose.

The House resumed.

Madam Acting Speaker in the Chair.

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

3:11 p.m.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt, moved that the House do now resolve into Committee of Supply for further consideration of the Supplementary Estimate No. 2 for Financial Year 2023/2024, which was agreed to.

Mr. R. S. Pearman in the Chair for Committee of Supply.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt spoke on the Supplementary Estimate.

The Hon. J. A. K. Adams moved that the following Ministry of Public Works Heads be now taken under consideration, which was agreed to:-

- 36 Public Works HQ
- 81 Public Lands and Buildings
- 82 Works and Engineering

3:26 p.m.

Dr. D. S. J. De Couto

3:27 p.m.

The Hon. L. C. Cannonier

3:29 p.m.

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

3:31 p.m.

Dr. D. S. J. De Couto

3:32 p.m.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt

3:33 p.m.

Dr. D. S. J. De Couto

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt

3:34 p.m.

The Hon. J. A. K. Adams moved that Item 1 Heads 36, 81, 82, be approved as printed, which was agreed to.

The Hon. J. A. K. Adams moved that Item 5 Head 65, be approved as printed, which was agreed to.

The Hon. M. A. Weeks moved that the following Ministry of National Security Heads be now taken under consideration, which was agreed to:-

- 07 Police

- 12 Customs
- 25 Corrections
- 45 Fire Service

3:41 p.m.

Mr. J. C. Richardson

3:45 p.m.

The Hon. L. C. Cannonier

3:46 p.m.

The Hon. M. A. Weeks replied.

3:49 p.m.

Mr. J. C. Richardson

3:51 p.m.

The Hon. M. A. Weeks moved that Item 2 Heads 07, 12, 25 and 45, be approved as printed, which was agreed to.

3:52 p.m.

The Hon. O. K. Darrell moved that the following Item 3 Head be now taken under consideration, which was agreed to:-

- 65 Marine and Ports

3:55 p.m.

The Hon. O. K. Darrell moved that Item 3 Head 65, be approved as printed, which was agreed to.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt moved that the Supplementary Estimate No. 2 for the Financial Year 2023/2024 be approved, which was agreed to.

The Committee rose.

The House resumed.

Madam Acting Speaker in the Chair.

The report of the Committee was agreed to, as printed.

3:56 p.m.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt, moved that the House do now resolve into Committee of Supply for further consideration of the Supplementary Estimate No. 2 for Financial Year 2024/2025, which was agreed to.

Mr. R. S. Pearman in the Chair for Committee of Supply.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt spoke on the Supplementary Estimate.

4:01 p.m.

Mr. D. J. R. Lister moved that the following Ministry of Education Head be now taken under consideration, which was agreed to:-

- 17 Education

4:04 p.m.

Mr. D. J. R. Lister moved that Item 1 Head 17, be approved as printed, which was agreed to.

4:05 p.m.

The Hon. J. A. K. Adams moved that the following Ministry of Public Works Heads be now taken under consideration, which was agreed to:-

- 36 Public Works HQ
- 82 Works and Engineering

4:10 p.m.

The Hon. J. A. K. Adams moved that Item 2 Heads 36 and 82, along with Items 4, 5 and Head 65 be approved as printed, which was agreed to.

4:12 p.m.

The Hon. M. A. Weeks moved that the following Item 3 Heads be now taken under consideration, which was agreed to:-

- 06 Defence
- 07 Police
- 12 Customs
- 25 Corrections
- 45 Fire Service

4:19 p.m.

Mr. J. C. Richardson

4:22 p.m.

The Hon. M. A. Weeks moved that Item 3 Heads 06, 07, 12, 25, and 45 be approved as printed, which was agreed to.

4:24 p.m.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt moved that the Supplementary Estimate No. 2 for the Financial Year 2024/2025 be approved, which was agreed to.

The Committee rose.

The House resumed.

His Honour the Speaker in the Chair.

The report of the Committee was agreed to, as printed.

4:25 p.m.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt moved that Standing Order 21 be suspended to enable him to move that the Bill entitled “Public Service Superannuation Amendment Act 2026” be now read a third time, which was agreed to.

On the motion of the Hon. E. D. G. Burt, the Bill entitled “Public Service Superannuation Amendment Act 2026” was then read a third time by its title only and passed.

4:27 p.m.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt moved that the House, at its rising, adjourn to Friday, June 12th, 2026, which was agreed to.

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

Mr. J. C. Richardson

4:35 p.m.

Mr. T. C. Famous

4:45 p.m.

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

4:48 p.m.

Ms. L. C. Smith

4:52 p.m.

Mr. D. V. Robinson

4:45 p.m.

Mr. J. S. Simmons (PoO)

5:04 p.m.

Mr. J. S. Simmons

5:10 p.m.

Ms. R. S. Tucker

5:25 p.m.

Mr. H. K. E. Swan

5:46 p.m.

Dr. D. S. J. De Couto

5:51 p.m.

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

5:59 p.m.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt

6:00 p.m.

The House adjourned.