

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

No. 35

Friday, 15th May, 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 | 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. Jarion C. Richardson | Mr. Dwayne V. Robinson | 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

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

10:03 a.m.

His Honour the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers

10:05 a.m.

Minutes of the Meeting of 27th March 2026 were confirmed.

Announcements by the Speaker

His Honour the Speaker informed Members that the Hon. K. N. Wilson, the Hon. C. L. Dickinson and Mr. J. S. Simmons will be absent from today's proceedings.

His Honour the Speaker acknowledged the presence of Members of the Bermuda Chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority in the Public Gallery.

Papers and Other Communications to the House

10:06 a.m.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt, Premier and Minister of Finance, 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 **"International Cooperation (Tax Information Exchange Agreements) Common Reporting Standard Amendment Regulations 2026"**, as made by the Minister responsible for Finance, in exercise of the power conferred by section

12 of the International Cooperation (Tax Information Exchange Agreements) Act 2005.

10:07 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 **"Motor Car (Ridesharing) Regulations 2026"**, as made by the Minister responsible for transport, in exercise of the power conferred by sections 37 and 102 of the Motor Car Act 1951.

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 **"Motor Taxi (Taxi Despatching Service) Amendment Regulations 2026."**, as made by the Minister responsible for transport, in exercise of the power conferred by section 37A of the Motor Car Act 1951.

Statements by Ministers and Junior Ministers

10:08 a.m.

Statement entitled "Consultation on the Proposed Process for Constitutional Reform" was read by the Hon. E. D. G. Burt, Premier and Minister of Finance.

10:15 a.m.

Statement entitled “Independent Rating Agencies Confirm Bermuda’s Fiscal Progress” was read by the Hon. E. D. G. Burt, Premier and Minister of Finance.

10:23 a.m.

Statement entitled “City of Hamilton Ground Floor Use and Vacancy Survey 2025” was read by the Hon. Diallo V. S. Rabain, Minister for the Cabinet Office and Digital Innovation.

10:29 a.m.

Statement entitled “Launch of the New Government Portal” was read by the Hon. Diallo V. S. Rabain, Minister for the Cabinet Office and Digital Innovation.

10:36 a.m.

Statement entitled “Update on Consultative Draft National Electricity Sector Policy” was read by the Hon. A. N. H. Lightbourne, Minister of Home Affairs.

10:45 a.m.

Statement entitled “Update on the Landlord and Tenant Act reform and the National Housing Registry Framework” was read by the Hon. A. N. H. Lightbourne, Minister of Home Affairs.

10:54 a.m.

Statement entitled “Medical Cannabis Framework” was read by the Hon. M. A. Weeks, Minister of National Security.

11:03 a.m.

Statement entitled “Ridesharing in Bermuda-Implementation Update” was read by the Hon. O. K. Darrell, Minister of Tourism and Transport, Culture and Sport.

11:10 a.m.

Statement entitled “Bermuda Day 2026: Announcement of Grand Marshalls” was read by the Hon. O. K. Darrell, Minister of Tourism and Transport, Culture and Sport.

11:16 a.m.

Statement entitled “Update on National Infrastructure and Community Works Across Bermuda” was read by the Hon. J. A. K. Adams, Minister of Public Works and Environment.

11:26 a.m.

His Honour the Speaker acknowledged the presence of former Senator and Attorney General, Mr. Phil Perinchief, in the Public Gallery.

Question Period**11:27 a.m.**

Mr. D. J. R. Lister, Junior Minister of Justice and Spokesperson for Education, provided Written Responses to Parliamentary Questions from the Hon. Ben A. Smith: (Answers deferred from March 20th)

1. Will the Honourable Minister please inform this Honourable House whether formal performance evaluations are conducted for teachers, school principals, paraprofessionals, and education officers within the Ministry of Education?
2. Will the Honourable Minister please inform this Honourable House how many teachers, principals, paraprofessionals, and Ministry administrators were identified as underperforming through formal evaluations, for each of the past five academic years?
3. Will the Honourable Minister please inform this Honourable House how many teachers, principals, paraprofessionals, and Ministry administrators were placed on performance improvement plans, disciplinary action, reassignment, or removal from their position for each of the past five academic years?

Parliamentary Questions from the Hon. Ben A. Smith to Spokesperson for Education, Mr. Dennis J. R. Lister for Written Answers on 15th May 2026 were directed by His Honour the Speaker to be deferred.

The Hon. Tinée S. Furbert, Minister of Youth, Social Development and Seniors, provided Written Responses to Parliamentary Questions from Ms. Robin S. Tucker:

1. Will the Honourable Minister please provide this Honourable House with a list of all grocery stores with which the Government currently partners for the purpose of administering the Financial Assistance Programme, and the dates on which each partnership was established?
2. Will the Honourable Minister please provide for this Honourable House the total amount paid to each participating grocery store under the Financial Assistance Programme, broken down by year and by store for the past ten years?

3. Will the Honourable Minister please outline for this Honourable House the process used to determine which grocery items qualify as essential for the purposes of the Financial Assistance Programme, including any consultation undertaken with relevant professionals, community organizations, or other stakeholders in developing this determination?

11:28 a.m.

The Hon. J. P. Hayward, Minister of Economy and Labour, provided Oral Response to Parliamentary Questions from Dr. D. S. J. De Couto:

*1. Will the Honourable Minister please explain to this Honourable House why youth unemployment almost tripled from 3.4% in November 2024 to 9.3% in May 2025, as reported by the May 2025 Labour Force Survey?

The Hon. J. P. Hayward replied.

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

The Hon. J. P. Hayward replied.

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

The Hon. J. P. Hayward replied.

11:31 a.m.

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

The Hon. J. P. Hayward replied.

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

The Hon. J. P. Hayward replied.

11:35 a.m.

*2. Will the Honourable Minister please explain to this Honourable House why, according to the May 2025 Labour Force Survey, the Non-Bermudian median income rose 28.1% from November 2024 to May 2025 but the Bermudian median income decreased -1.3%?

The Hon. J. P. Hayward replied.

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

The Hon. J. P. Hayward replied.

11:38 a.m.

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

11:39 a.m.

His Honour the Speaker

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

11:40 a.m.

His Honour the Speaker

Dr. D. S. J. De Couto

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

The Hon. J. P. Hayward replied.

11:43 a.m.

*3. Will the Honourable Minister please explain for this Honourable House why, according to the May 2025 Labour Force Survey, the underemployment rate increased from 7.8% in November 2024 to 8.4% in May 2025?

The Hon. J. P. Hayward replied.

The Hon. L. C. Cannonier

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

The Hon. J. P. Hayward replied.

11:48 a.m.

The Hon. D. V. S. Rabain, Minister for the Cabinet Office and Digital Innovation, provided Oral Response to Parliamentary Question from Mr. D. V. Robinson:

*1. Will the Honourable Minister please provide this Honourable House with an update on the Electoral Reform Working Group, as the stated date for its formation was March 30, 2026?

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

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

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

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

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

11:51 a.m.

The Hon. A. N. H. Lightbourne, Minister of Home Affairs, provided Oral Response to Parliamentary Question from Mr. D. V. Robinson:

*1. Will the Honourable Minister please inform this Honourable House on the status of the draft Bill the Landlord and Tenant Act 2025 as consultation concluded October 31, 2025?

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

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

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

11:53 a.m.

The Hon. J. A. K. Adams, Minister of Public Works and Environment, provided Oral Response to Parliamentary Question from Mr. D. V. Robinson:

*1. Will the Honourable Minister please provide this Honourable House with an update regarding the upkeep and maintenance planned for the Gibbs Hill Lighthouse?

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

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

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

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

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

11:56 a.m.

The Hon. J. A. K. Adams, Minister of Public Works and Environment, provided Oral Response to Parliamentary Questions from Ms. L. C. Smith:

*1. Accepting that casuarinas trees are categorized as an invasive species, will the Honourable Minister please provide this Honourable House with the reasons why Penhurst Park in Smith's Parish is now being cleared of several very large old trees and other horticulture that have provided welcome cover and shade for decades, particularly on the western boundary fence line with property owned by Link Bermuda?

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

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

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

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

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

*2. Will the Honourable Minister please inform this Honourable House whether the Ministry has received any complaints, reports or investigated any incidents relating to sewage, wastewater, discoloured water or other possible marine pollution in Bermuda waters over the past six months, and what findings or actions resulted from those investigations?

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

12:01 p.m.

Mr. L. M. R. King asked the Hon. E. D. G. Burt a question in reference to the Ministerial Statement entitled "Consultation on the Proposed Process for Constitutional Reform".

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

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

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

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

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

12:03 p.m.

Mr. V. M. E. Campbell asked the Hon. E. D. G. Burt a question in reference to the Ministerial Statement entitled "Independent Rating Agencies Confirm Bermuda's Fiscal Progress".

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

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

Mr. V. M. E. Campbell asked a supplementary question.

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

12:07 p.m.

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

His Honour the Speaker

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

Mr. V. M. E. Campbell

12:11 p.m.

The Hon. L. C. Cannonier asked the Hon. D. V. S. Rabain a question in reference to the Ministerial Statement entitled “City of Hamilton Ground Floor Use and Vacancy Survey 2025”.

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

12:13 p.m.

Ms. R. S. Tucker asked a question.

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

12:14 p.m.

Mr. V. M. E. Campbell asked a question.

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

12:15 p.m.

Ms. R. S. Tucker asked the Hon. D. V. S. Rabain a question in reference to the Ministerial Statement entitled “Launch of the New Government Portal”.

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

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

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

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

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

12:19 p.m.

Mr. D. V. Robinson asked the Hon. A. N. H. Lightbourne a question in reference to the Ministerial Statement entitled “Update on Consultative Draft National Electricity Sector Policy”.

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

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

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

12:25 p.m.

The Hon. L. C. Cannonier asked the Hon. M. A. Weeks a question in reference to the Ministerial Statement entitled “Medical Cannabis Framework”.

The Hon. M. A. Weeks replied.

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

The time expired for Question Period.

12:28 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.

2:08 p.m.

The House resumed.

His Honour the Speaker in the Chair.

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

2:09 p.m. – Mr. H. K. E. Swan

2:12 p.m. - Mr. D. J. R. Lister

2:15 p.m. - Mr. J. C. Richardson

2:16 p.m. - The Hon. D. V. S. Rabain

2:18 p.m. - Mr. R. S. Pearman

2:20 p.m. – Mr. L. M. R. King

The Hon. A. N. H. Lightbourne

2:22 p.m. - The Hon. M. A. Weeks

2:24 p.m. – The Hon. L. C. Cannonier

2:27 p.m. - Mr. N. S. Tyrrell

2:30 p.m. - Ms. R. S. Tucker

2:33 p.m. - Dr. D. S. J. De Couto

2:35 p.m. - The Hon. O. K. Darrell

2:37 p.m. - Ms. L. C. Smith

2:38 p.m. - Rev. Dr. E. G. A. Dill

2:41 p.m.- The Hon. B. A. Smith

2:42 p.m.- Mr. S. A. Simmons

2:43 p.m.- The Hon. E. D. G. Burt

2:47 p.m.- His Honour the Speaker

Introduction of Bills

2:48 p.m.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt read for the first time by its title a Bill entitled the "Public Service Superannuation Amendment Act 2026".

2:49 p.m.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt gave notice that at the next day of meeting, he proposed to move the following Motion:

"That this Honourable House take note of the Report of the Commission of Inquiry into Historic Land Losses in Bermuda which was tabled for the information of the House of Assembly on 10th December 2021."

2:50 p.m.

Orders of the Day

The Hon. J. A. K. Adams, moved that the Bill entitled the "Single-Use Plastics Act 2026" be now read a second time, which was agreed to.

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

3:01 p.m.

Ms. L. C. Smith

3:08 p.m.

Mr. H. K. E. Swan

3:11 p.m.

Mr. R. S. Pearman

3:15 p.m.

The Hon. D. V. S. Rabain

3:21 p.m.

The Hon. A. N. H. Lightbourne

3:25 p.m.

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

The Bill was Committed.

Mr. T. C. Famous in the Chair.

3:30 p.m.

The Hon. J. A. K. Adams moved Clauses 1-23, which was agreed to.

3:39 p.m.

Mr. R. S. Pearman

3:45 p.m.

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

Clauses 1-23 were agreed to, as printed.

Schedules 1 and 2 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.

3:50 p.m.

The Hon. J. A. K. Adams moved that Standing Order 21 be suspended to enable him to move that the Bill entitled "Single-Use Plastics Act 2026" be now read a third time, which was agreed to.

On the motion of the Hon. J. A. K. Adams, the Bill entitled "Single-Use Plastics Act 2026" was then read a third time by its title only and passed.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt, moved that Standing Order 14 be suspended to enable him to introduce Supplementary Estimate No. 2 for 2023-2024 and Supplementary Estimate No. 2 for 2024-2025, which was agreed to.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt, read the following communication to His Honour the Speaker: -

"Pursuant to the powers conferred by Section 96 of the Constitution, I have the honour to attach and submit for the consideration of the Honourable House of Assembly the

“Supplementary Estimate No. 2 for the Financial Year 2023-2024; and the Supplementary Estimate No. 2 for the Financial Year 2024-2025”.

3:52 p.m.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt moved that the House, at its rising, adjourn to Friday, May 29th, 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

3:55 p.m.

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

3:56 p.m.

The Hon. M. A. Weeks (PoO)

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

4:03 p.m.

The Hon. O. K. Darrell

4:12 p.m.

Ms. L. C. Smith

4:17 p.m.

The Hon. J. A. K. Adams

4:28 p.m.

Mr. L. M. R. King

4:38 p.m.

Mr. T. C. Famous

4:57 p.m.

Mr. H. K. E. Swan

5:17 p.m.

The Hon. M. A. Weeks

5:25 p.m.

The Hon. B. A. Smith

5:36 p.m.

Rev. Dr. E. G. A. Dill

5:42 p.m.

The Hon. J. P. Hayward

5:50 p.m.

His Honour the Speaker noted a matter of proceedings.

His Honour the Speaker spoke on safety during the holiday and wished Members and the Public an enjoyable holiday.

5:53 p.m.

The House adjourned.