

BERMUDA

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SENATE

SESSION OF 2025 - 2026

No. 28

WEDNESDAY, 22nd 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

10:03a.m.

On the motion of Senator T.O.P. Tannock, the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday, 15th July 2026 were taken as read and confirmed.

Announcements

10:05a.m.

Senator L.K. Simmons presented for the information of Senate the “Electricity (Integrated Resource Planning Process Suspension and Reconstitution) Order 2026” made by the Minister responsible for energy, in exercise of the power conferred by Sections 13A and 45B of the Electricity Act 2016.

Ministerial Statement

10:06a.m.

Senator the Hon. R.A.R. Perinchief, as Minister of National Security, made a Ministerial Statement entitled “Advancing Public Safety Across the Ministry of National Security”.

Introduction of Bills

10:19a.m.

The following Public Bills were brought up from the Honourable House of Assembly, and given their First Reading in the Senate:-

“Justice and Community Safety Reform Act 2026”

“Corporate Income Tax Amendment Act 2026”

“Tax Credits Amendment Act 2026”

“Human Rights Amendment Act 2026”

“Cost of Living Commission Amendment (No. 2) Act 2026”

“Bermuda Health Council (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 2026”

“Health Insurance Amendment Act 2026”

Question Period

10:21a.m.

Senator the Hon. Ryan A.R. Perinchief to provide Oral Response to a Parliamentary Question from Senator Victoria J. Cunningham.

*1. Can the Junior Minister please confirm the current level of Government's consolidated cash balances as at 30 June 2026, and how this compares to the balance as at 1 January 2026?

Senator V.J. Cunningham asked a supplementary question.

Senator the Hon. R.A.R. Perinchief informed Senator V.J. Cunningham he would need to revert.

Senator Lindsay K. Simmons to provide Oral Response to Parliamentary Questions from Senator Victoria J. Cunningham.

*1. Can the Junior Minister please confirm in what respects the National Electricity Sector Policy has been incorporated into the IRP planning process?

Senator L.K. Simmons replied.

Senator V.J. Cunningham asked a supplementary question.

Senator L.K. Simmons replied.

*2. Can the Junior Minister please confirm what assessment has Government and the Regulatory Authority made of the additional electricity demand expected from the reopening of the Southampton Princess in August this year?

Senator L.K. Simmons replied.

Senator V.J. Cunningham asked a supplementary question.

Senator V.J. Cunningham asked a second supplementary question.

Senator L.K. Simmons replied.

10:31a.m.

Madam President acknowledged the presence of former Senator, Mr. Maurice Foley, in the Public Gallery.

Senator the Hon. Ryan A.R. Perinchief to provide Oral Response to a Parliamentary Question from Senator Tarik J.D. Smith.

*1. Can the Honourable Minister please confirm the top three priorities he has identified for the Ministry of National Security since his appointment as the new Minister?

Senator the Hon. R.A.R. Perinchief replied.

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

*1. Can the Junior Minister please confirm whether Government has procured a new or replacement search-and-rescue/tug vessel for Marine and Ports, and if so, where it is intended to be positioned?

Senator M.G. Fubler replied.

*2. Can the Junior Minister please confirm the age and expected service life of the Vessel Traffic Management System currently in use, and whether it has reached the end of its operational or warranty life?

Senator M.G. Fubler replied.

Senator T.O.P. Tannock asked a question Senator the Hon. R.A.R. Perinchief on his Ministerial Statement entitled “Advancing Public Safety Across the Ministry of National Security”.

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

Senator the Hon. R.A.R. Perinchief replied.

Senator R.J. Wight asked a question.

Senator the Hon. R.A.R. Perinchief replied.

Senator V.J. Cunningham asked a question.

Senator the Hon. R.A.R. Perinchief replied.

Senator V.J. Cunningham asked a supplementary question.

Senator the Hon. R.A.R. Perinchief replied.

Senator V.J. Cunningham asked a second supplementary question.

Senator the Hon. R.A.R. Perinchief replied.

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson replied.

Senator D.H. Rogers asked a question.

Senator the Hon. R.A.R. Perinchief replied.

Orders of the Day

10:49a.m.

Senator L.F. Bell moved that the provisions of Standing Order 25 be granted so that Senate may now proceed with the Second Reading of the Public Bill entitled “Bermuda Health Council (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 2026”, which was agreed to.

Senator L.F. Bell moved that the Public Bill entitled the “Bermuda Health Council (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 2026” be now read the second time, which was agreed to.

Senator L.F. Bell spoke on the Bill.

10:53a.m. – Senator D.H. Rogers

10:56a.m.

Madam President acknowledged the presence of the Hon. L. Craig Cannonier, Opposition Whip, in the Public Gallery.

10:55a.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

10:55a.m. – Senator R.J. Wight

10:56a.m. – Senator L.F. Bell replied.

The Bill was accordingly read a second time.

Senator L.F. Bell moved that Standing Order 26 be suspended in respect of this Bill, which was agreed to.

Senator L.F. Bell moved that the Bill be now read a third time, which was agreed to.

The Bill was accordingly read a third time.

Senator L.F. Bell moved that the Bill entitled the “Bermuda Health Council (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 2026” do now pass, which was agreed to.

The Bill was accordingly passed and ordered to be laid before His Excellency the Governor for His Excellency’s assent.

10:57a.m.

Senator L.F. Bell moved that the provisions of Standing Order 25 be granted so that Senate may now proceed with the Second Reading of the Public Bill entitled “Health Insurance Amendment Act 2026”, which was agreed to.

Senator L.F. Bell moved that the Public Bill entitled the “Health Insurance Amendment Act 2026” be now read the second time, which was agreed to.

Senator L.F. Bell spoke on the Bill.

11:02a.m. – Senator D.H. Rogers

11:04a.m. – Senator R.J. Wight

11:04a.m. – Senator V.J. Cunningham

11:05a.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

11:06a.m. – Senator D.H. Rogers

11:06a.m. – Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson

11:08a.m. – Senator L.F. Bell replied.

11:10a.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

11:11a.m. – Senator L.F. Bell replied.

11:11a.m. – Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson

11:12a.m. – Senator L.F. Bell replied.

11:13a.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

11:13a.m. – Senator L.F. Bell replied.

The Bill was accordingly read a second time.

Senator L.F. Bell moved that Standing Order 26 be suspended in respect of this Bill, which was agreed to.

Senator L.F. Bell moved that the Bill be now read a third time, which was agreed to.

The Bill was accordingly read a third time.

Senator L.F. Bell moved that the Bill entitled the “Health Insurance Amendment Act 2026” do now pass, which was agreed to.

The Bill was accordingly passed and ordered to be laid before His Excellency the Governor for His Excellency’s assent.

11:15a.m.

Senator the Hon. R.A.R. Perinchief answered the question previously asked by Senator V.J. Cunningham.

11:16a.m.

Senator the Hon. R.A.R. Perinchief moved that the provisions of Standing Order 25 be granted so that Senate may now proceed with the Second Reading of the Public Bill entitled “Corporate Income Tax Amendment Act 2026”, which was agreed to.

Senator the Hon. R.A.R. Perinchief moved that the Public Bill entitled the “Corporate Income Tax

Amendment Act 2026” be now read the second time, which was agreed to.

Senator the Hon. R.A.R. Perinchief spoke on the Bill.

11:19a.m.

Madam President acknowledged the presence of Ms. Genesis Iris, Policy Analyst for the Ministry of Finance, in the Chamber.

11:20a.m. – Senator V.J. Cunningham

11:21a.m. – Senator R.J. Wight

11:21a.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

11:22a.m. – Senator the Hon. R.A.R. Perinchief replied.

The Bill was accordingly read a second time.

Senator the Hon. R.A.R. Perinchief moved that Standing Order 26 be suspended in respect of this Bill, which was agreed to.

Senator the Hon. R.A.R. Perinchief moved that the Bill be now read a third time, which was agreed to.

The Bill was accordingly read a third time.

Senator the Hon. R.A.R. Perinchief moved that the Bill entitled the “Corporate Income Tax Amendment Act 2026” do now pass, which was agreed to.

The Bill was accordingly passed and ordered to be laid before His Excellency the Governor for His Excellency’s assent.

11:24a.m.

Senator the Hon. R.A.R. Perinchief moved that the provisions of Standing Order 25 be granted so that Senate may now proceed with the Second Reading of the Public Bill entitled “Tax Credits Amendment Act 2026”, which was agreed to.

Senator the Hon. R.A.R. Perinchief moved that the Public Bill entitled the “Tax Credits Amendment Act 2026” be now read the second time, which was agreed to.

Senator the Hon. R.A.R. Perinchief spoke on the Bill.

11:28a.m. – Senator V.J. Cunningham

11:30a.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

11:31a.m. – Senator R.J. Wight

11:31a.m. – Senator the Hon. R.A.R. Perinchief replied.

The Bill was accordingly read a second time.

Senator the Hon. R.A.R. Perinchief moved that Standing Order 26 be suspended in respect of this Bill, which was agreed to.

Senator the Hon. R.A.R. Perinchief moved that the Bill be now read a third time, which was agreed to.

The Bill was accordingly read a third time.

Senator the Hon. R.A.R. Perinchief moved that the Bill entitled the “Tax Credits Amendment Act 2026” do now pass, which was agreed to.

The Bill was accordingly passed and ordered to be laid before His Excellency the Governor for His Excellency’s assent.

11:34a.m.

Senator L.K. Simmons moved that the provisions of Standing Order 25 be granted so that Senate may now proceed with the Second Reading of the Public Bill entitled “Human Rights Amendment Act 2026”, which was agreed to.

Senator L.K. Simmons moved that the Public Bill entitled the “Human Rights Amendment Act 2026” be now read the second time, which was agreed to.

Senator L.K. Simmons spoke on the Bill.

11:43a.m.

Madam President acknowledged the presence of Ms. Pandora Glasford, Permanent Secretary and Ms. Kleita Pitcher, Policy Analyst for the Ministry of Youth, Social Development and Seniors, in the Chamber.

11:44a.m. – Senator T.J.D. Smith

11:47a.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock
 11:51a.m. – Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson (P.O.O)
 11:53a.m. – Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson (P.O.C)
 11:54a.m. – Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson (P.O.O)

11:57a.m. – Senator R.J. Wight

11:58a.m. – Senator V.J. Cunningham

12:05p.m. – Senator M.G. Fubler
 12:07p.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock (P.O.O)
 12:07p.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock (P.O.O)

12:09p.m. – Senator L.K. Simmons replied.

12:10p.m. – Senator D.H. Rogers

12:11p.m. – Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson

12:23p.m. – Senator L.K. Simmons replied.
 12:30p.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock (P.O.O)
 12:30p.m. – Senator D.H. Rogers (P.O.O)

12:31p.m.

Madam President acknowledged the presence of the Hon. Tinée Furbert, Minister of Youth, Social Development and Seniors, in the Chamber.

12:36p.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock
 12:39p.m. – Senator V.J. Cunningham (P.O.C)

12:40p.m. – Senator T.J.D. Smith

12:41p.m. – Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson
 12:43p.m. – Senator V.J. Cunningham (P.O.C)

12:43p.m. – Senator L.K. Simmons replied.

12:45p.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

12:46p.m. – Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson

12:47p.m. – Senator L.K. Simmons replied.

The Bill was accordingly read a second time.

Senator L.K. Simmons moved that Standing Order 26 be suspended in respect of this Bill, which was objected to.

The motion was defeated on Division with a vote of 5 Ayes to 6 Nays.

AYES: Senator L.F. Bell, Senator M.G. Fubler, Senator the Hon. R.A.R. Perinchief, Senator L.K. Simmons and Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson.

NAYS: Senator V.J. Cunningham, Senator D.H. Rogers, Senator T.J.D. Smith, Senator T.O.P. Tannock, Senator R.J. Wight and Madam President.

The Senate adjourned for lunch and will resume at 2:15p.m.

Senator L.K. Simmons moved that the Senate do now resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole for further consideration of the Bill entitled “Human Rights Amendment Act 2026”, which was agreed to.

(Senator R.J. Wight in the Chair)

Senator L.K. Simmons moved Clauses 1-6, which was agreed to.

2:22p.m. – Senator V.J. Cunningham moved that the committee rise, report progress and ask for leave to sit again.

2:23p.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

2:24p.m. – Senator L.F. Bell

2:28p.m. – Senator M.G. Fubler

2:31p.m. – Senator D.H. Rogers

2:32p.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock
 2:33p.m. – Senator L.K. Simmons (P.O.O)

2:33p.m. – Senator T.J.D. Smith
 2:34p.m. – Senator M.G. Fubler (P.O.O)

2:35p.m. – Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson

2:36p.m. – Senator V.J. Cunningham

2:37p.m. – Senator L.K. Simmons
 2:38p.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock (P.O.O)

2:41p.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

2:42p.m. – Senator the Hon. R.A.R. Perinchief

2:46p.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

2:47p.m. – Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson

2:48p.m. – Senator L.K. Simmons

2:49p.m. – Senator V.J. Cunningham

2:52p.m. – Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson

2:54p.m. – Senator V.J. Cunningham

2:54p.m. – Senator L.K. Simmons (P.O.O)

2:54p.m. – Senator R.J. Wight, in the Chair, ruled that the motion to rise and report progress is disallowed.

2:55p.m. – Senator L.K. Simmons moved that Clauses 1-6 be approved as printed, which was objected to.

The motion was affirmed on Division with a vote of 8 Ayes to 3 Nays.

AYES: Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson, Senator the Hon. R.A.R. Perinchief, Senator L.K. Simmons, Senator M.G. Fubler, Senator L.F. Bell, Senator T.O.P. Tannock, Senator R.J. Wight and Madam President.

NAYS: Senator V.J. Cunningham, Senator T.J.D. Smith and Senator D.H. Rogers.

Senator L.K. Simmons moved that the Preamble be approved, which was agreed to.

Senator L.K. Simmons moved that the Title stand as part of the Bill, which was agreed to.

Senator L.K. Simmons moved that the Bill be adopted, which was agreed to.

The Committee rose and the Senate resumed.

Senator L.K. Simmons moved that the Bill be now read a third time, which was agreed to.

The Bill was accordingly read a third time.

Senator L.K. Simmons moved that the Bill entitled the “Human Rights Amendment Act 2026” do now pass, which was agreed to.

The Bill was accordingly passed and ordered to be laid before His Excellency the Governor for His Excellency’s assent.

3:01p.m.

Senator L.K. Simmons moved that the provisions of Standing Order 25 be granted so that Senate may now proceed with the Second Reading of the Public Bill entitled “Cost of Living Commission Amendment (No. 2) Act 2026”, which was objected to.

The motion was affirmed on Division with a vote of 6 Ayes to 5 Nays.

AYES: Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson, Senator the Hon. R.A.R. Perinchief, Senator L.K. Simmons, Senator M.G. Fubler, Senator L.F. Bell and Madam President.

NAYS: Senator V.J. Cunningham, Senator T.J.D. Smith, Senator D.H. Rogers, Senator T.O.P. Tannock and Senator R.J. Wight.

Senator L.K. Simmons moved that the Public Bill entitled the “Cost of Living Commission Amendment (No. 2) Act 2026”, be now read the second time, which was agreed to.

Senator L.K. Simmons spoke on the Bill.

3:36p.m. – Senator T.J.D. Smith

3:38p.m. – Senator R.J. Wight

3:47p.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

3:56p.m. – Senator L.K. Simmons (P.O.I)

3:56p.m. – Senator L.K. Simmons (P.O.I)

3:59p.m. – Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson

4:03p.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock (P.O.O)

4:04p.m. – Senator D.H. Rogers

4:08p.m. – Senator M.G. Fubler

4:14p.m. – Senator V.J. Cunningham

4:15p.m. – Senator M.G. Fubler (P.O.I)

4:23p.m. – Senator the Hon. R.A.R. Perinchief

4:32p.m. – Senator L.K. Simmons replied.

The Bill was accordingly read a second time.

Senator L.K. Simmons moved that Standing Order 26 be suspended in respect of this Bill, which was agreed to.

Senator L.K. Simmons moved that the Bill entitled “Cost of Living Commission Amendment (No. 2) Act 2026” be now read a third time, which was objected to by more than three Senators. Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 35, the Third Reading of the Bill entitled “Cost of Living Commission Amendment (No. 2) Act 2026” shall be deferred to the next day of meeting.

Senator L.K. Simmons moved that Standing Order 35 be suspended, which was objected to.

The motion was defeated on Division with a vote of 5 Ayes to 6 Nays.

AYES: Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson, Senator the Hon. R.A.R. Perinchief, Senator L.K. Simmons, Senator M.G. Fubler and Senator L.F. Bell.

NAYS: Senator V.J. Cunningham, Senator T.J.D. Smith, Senator D.H. Rogers, Senator T.O.P. Tannock, Senator R.J. Wight and Madam President.

The Third Reading shall be deferred to the next day of meeting.

4:44p.m.

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson moved that the provisions of Standing Order 25 be granted so that Senate may now proceed with the Second Reading of the Public Bill entitled “Justice and Community Safety Reform Act 2026”, which was agreed to.

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson moved that the Public Bill entitled the “Justice and Community Safety Reform Act 2026”, be now read the second time, which was agreed to.

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

5:02p.m. – Senator V.J. Cunningham

5:08p.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

5:08p.m. - Senator R.J. Wight

5:09p.m. – Senator D.H. Rogers

5:10p.m. – Senator L.K. Simmons (P.O.O)

5:13p.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

5:13p.m. – Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson replied.

The Bill was accordingly read a second time.

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson moved that Standing Order 26 be suspended in respect of this Bill, which was objected to.

The motion was affirmed on Division with a vote of 7 Ayes to 3 Nays.

AYES: Senator L.F. Bell, Senator the Hon. R.A.R. Perinchief, Senator L.K. Simmons and Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson, Senator T.O.P. Tannock, Senator R.J. Wight and Madam President.

NAYS: Senator V.J. Cunningham, Senator D.H. Rogers and Senator T.J.D. Smith.

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson moved that the Bill be now read a third time, which was agreed to.

The Bill was accordingly read a third time.

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson moved that the Bill entitled the “Justice and Community Safety Reform Act 2026” do now pass, which was agreed to.

The Bill was accordingly passed and ordered to be laid before His Excellency the Governor for His Excellency’s assent.

Congratulations and/or Obituary Speeches

5:22p.m.

Senator T.O.P. Tannock offered condolences to the family of the late Ms. Una Iris. She also congratulated the St. George’s Cup Match team.

Senator D.H. Rogers congratulated the St. George’s Cup Match team.

Senator R.J. Wight offered condolences to the family of the late Mr. Kenneth De Fontes.

Senator V.J. Cunningham offered congratulations to Bermuda’s athletes competing at the Commonwealth Games.

Senator T.J.D. Smith offered condolences to the family of the late Mr. Randolph Hunt. He congratulated Steven Astood, Jr. on scoring 2 goals with his Under-17 football team. He also congratulated the organisers of the Triangle Cup.

Senator L.K. Simmons offered condolences to the family of the late Mrs. Wendy Harvey. She also congratulated the Future Leaders Programme, as well as the BPSU on offering scholarships and bursaries to students attending college. Senator Simmons congratulated the St. George's Cup Match team.

Senator T.O.P. Tannock associated with the congratulations extended to BPSU helping to provide bursaries helping students.

Madam President offered condolences to the family of the late Mr. Pedro Mejias. She also associated with the congratulations extended to the Future Leaders Programme.

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson congratulated Pacers Track Club on their upcoming meet in the U.S. and medals won at the recent International Youth Championships. She wished everyone a wonderful Cup Match.

5:33p.m.

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson moved that, at its rising, the Senate adjourn to Monday, 14th September 2026 – which was agreed to.

5:34p.m. – Senator T.J.D. Smith

5:36p.m – Madam President

5:37p.m

Adjourned until Monday, 14th September 2026.

Monday – 14th September 2026

- (1) Third Reading of the “Cost of Living Commission Amendment (No. 2) Act 2026” – Senator Lindsay K. Simmons, Junior Minister of Home Affairs

PRESIDENT

ORDERS OF THE DAY