

BERMUDA

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SENATE

SESSION OF 2025 - 2026

No. 23

WEDNESDAY, 20th MAY 2026

PRESENT:

Senator the Hon. Mrs. J.E. DILLAS-WRIGHT,
M.B.E., J.P. - PRESIDENT
Senator R.J. WIGHT – VICE PRESIDENT
Senator the Hon. K.R. WILKERSON, 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

ABSENT:

Senator Ms. T.O.P. TANNOCK
Senator the Hon. C.C. CAESAR, J.P.
Senator D.H. ROGERS

10:05a.m.

On the motion of Senator R.J. Wight, the minutes of the meeting of Monday, 23rd March, Wednesday, 25th March, Thursday, 26th March and Monday, 30th March 2026 were taken as read and confirmed.

10:06a.m.

Madam President announced that Senator T.O.P. Tannock and Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar would be absent from today's sitting.

10:07a.m.

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson presented for the information of Senate the "2025 Treatment of Offenders Board (TOOB) Annual Report";

The "2025 The Parole Board Annual Report"; and the

"Review of Bermuda Department of Corrections – Panel Report".

10:08a.m.

On behalf of Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar, Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson presented for the information of Senate the "International Cooperation (Tax Information Exchange Agreements) Common Reporting Standard Amendment Regulations 2026" as made by the Minister of Finance, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 12 of the International Cooperation (Tax Information Exchange Agreements) Act 2005.

10:09a.m.

On behalf of Senator M.G. Fubler, Senator L.K. Simmons presented for the information of Senate 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; and 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.

Ministerial Statements

10:11a.m.

Senator the Hon. Kim R. Wilkerson, as Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, made a Ministerial Statement entitled "Tabling of the Treatment of Offenders Board and the Parole Board 2025 Reports".

10:29a.m.

Senator the Hon. Kim R. Wilkerson, as Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, made a Ministerial Statement entitled "Corrections Reform: Accountability and Action".

10:36a.m.

Senator Lauren F. Bell, as Junior Minister of Economy and Labour made a Ministerial Statement entitled "The 2026 Census of Population and Housing".

10:42a.m.

Senator Lauren F. Bell, as Junior Minister of Economy and Labour made a Ministerial Statement entitled "Pay Transparency Policy: Public Consultation".

Introduction of Bills

10:49a.m.

The following Public Bill was brought up from the Honourable House of Assembly, and given its First Reading in the Senate:-

"Single-Use Plastics Act 2026"

Question Period

10:50a.m.

Senator V.J. Cunningham asked a question to Senator the Hon. Kim R. Wilkerson on her Ministerial Statement entitled "Corrections Reform: Accountability and Action".

Senator V.J. Cunningham asked a second question.

Senator R.J. Wight a question.

Senator the Hon. Kim R. Wilkerson replied.

Senator V.J. Cunningham asked a question to Senator L.F. Bell on her Ministerial Statement entitled "The 2026 Census of Population and Housing".

Senator V.J. Cunningham asked a second question.

Senator L.F. Bell replied.

Senator R.J. Wight a question to Senator L.F. Bell on her Ministerial Statement entitled "Pay Transparency Policy: Public Consultation".

Senator L.F. Bell replied.

Senator V.J. Cunningham asked a question.

Senator L.F. Bell replied.

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

*1. Can the Junior Minister please provide the Senate with the Ministry of Health's plan to systematically address chronic overcrowding in the Emergency Department at KEMH, considering that the Bermuda Hospitals Board appears to be approximately \$30 million in debt?

*2. Can the Junior Minister please provide the Senate with what the intended patient capacity of the Emergency Department without boarding is, as well as what is the actual capacity when boarding occurs in hallways and overflow areas?

*3. Can the Junior Minister please explain what systems and processes are currently in place to ensure that boarded patients in the Emergency Department are treated with dignity, adequate privacy and basic hygiene on a daily basis?

Senator Lauren F. Bell to provide Oral Response to Parliamentary Questions by Senator Victoria J. Cunningham.

*1. Given repeated public assurances that an external operational review of the Emergency Department at KEMH is being treated as a matter of urgency, can the Junior Minister please inform the Senate when the external operational assessment was formally commissioned, by whom, and under what terms of reference?

*2. In relation to the external operational review of the Emergency Department, can the Junior Minister please confirm whether the scope of the review will explicitly address concerns about patient care and health being directly affected by prolonged boarding, overcrowding or delays in care?

*3. Can the Junior Minister please inform the Senate how many acute care bed days were lost in the past year due to delayed discharges, and what the estimated financial impact was?

Senator Lauren F. Bell to provide Oral Response to Parliamentary Questions by Senator Tarik J.D. Smith.

*1. Can the Junior Minister please inform the Senate how many long-term care and step-down beds are currently available island-wide, and how

does this compare with BHB's projected demand over the next five years?

*2. Can the Junior Minister please inform the Senate what surge capacity plans are in place to manage seasonal demand, infectious disease outbreaks, or mass casualty events when the Emergency Department at KEMH is already operating at full capacity?

*3. Can the Junior Minister please provide assurance to the public, based on current operational data and safety standards, that patients attending the Emergency Department today can expect care delivered in a clinically safe environment?

L.F. Bell replied.

Orders of the Day

11:14a.m.

Senator M.G. Fubler 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 "Single-Use Plastics Act 2026", which was agreed to.

Senator M.G. Fubler moved that the Public Bill entitled the "Single-Use Plastics Act 2026"; be now read the second time, which was agreed to.

Senator M.G. Fubler spoke on the Bill.

11:22a.m. – Senator V.J. Cunningham

11:25a.m. – Senator R.J. Wight

11:26a.m. – Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson

11:30a.m. – Senator M.G. Fubler replied.

The Bill was accordingly read a second time.

Senator M.G. Fubler moved that Standing Order 26 be suspended in respect of this Bill, which was agreed to.

Senator M.G. Fubler moved that the Bill be now read a third time, which was agreed to.

The Bill was accordingly read a third time.

Senator M.G. Fubler moved that the Bill entitled the "Single-Use Plastics 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

11:35a.m.

Senator R.J. Wight offered condolences to the family of the late Mr. Earl Leader, a prominent tennis coach. He also offered condolences to the family of the late Mrs. Maria Perry.

Senator L.K. Simmons offered congratulations to all the graduates of Bermuda College and made special mention to Miss Callahj Simons, who was the youngest graduate at 17 years old and made a wonderful speech.

Senator V.J. Cunningham associated with the congratulations extended to the graduates of Bermuda College. She made special mention to Miss Juno Smith, the first BFIS scholar, as well as dually enrolled. She also congratulated Mr. Josh Samuels and the OUTBermuda team on their event celebrating the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia.

Senator M.G. Fubler offered condolences to the family of the late Ms. Florence Pearman. He congratulated the student recipients of the first Martin Luther King and Progressive Group Youth Awards. He offered congratulations on the recent sporting achievements of Bermuda's Carifta athletes who have had significant success including Miles Outerbridge who set a new national record. He also celebrated the female swimming relay team - Violet Smith, Teagan Mewett, Marleigh Howes, and Katherine Wheddon. He congratulated Pria Wilson who had a fantastic performance at IMG Academy winning three gold medals. Senator Fubler highlighted Mr. Roger Burchall on receiving the Bermuda Football Association's Order of Merit. He also congratulated Tobacco Bay on being named the number two Caribbean Beach on TripAdvisor.

Senator L.F. Bell associated herself with the congratulations extended to the graduates of Bermuda College, notably Miss Callahj Simon. She highlighted her son who was part of the graduating class who has graduated with distinction. She

congratulated the team behind the Clyde Best documentary, shining a light on one of Bermuda's greatest sporting legends. Senator Bell offered condolences to the family of the late Mr. Harold Minors, s long-time community supporter.

Senator T.J.D. Smith associated himself with the congratulations extended to Bermuda's Carifta athletes. He congratulated Sanchez Smith and Skye Furbert, young athletes who set records at Inter School Sports. He congratulated Ms. Tawana Lee who was named as one of the grand marshals for the Bermuda Day parade. Senator Smith congratulated North Village Community Football Club on winning the FA Cup. He expressed pride in his son, Roman, on his professional football journey.

Senator L.K. Simmons offered congratulations to the team who organized the Loyal Hill pre-Bermuda Day parade.

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson associated with the condolences offered to the family of the late Mrs. Maria Perry. She also offered condolences to the families of Mr. Janice Wright and Mr. Elroy Eve. Minister Wilkerson associated with the congratulations offered to Josh Samuels and the OUTBermuda team. She associated herself with the congratulations offered to the graduates of Bermuda College and Callahj Simons, Pria Wilson and Skye Furbert. Minister Wilkerson also associated with the congratulations to the team responsible for the Clyde Best documentary.

Madam President associated with the offered condolences to the family of Mr. Elroy Eve. She associated with the congratulations offered to the Bermuda College graduates as well as the team responsible for the Clyde Best documentary. She recognized the Bermuda Regiment Band on an outstanding performance during King Charles' visit and expressed her pride in Bermuda's community.

12:07p.m.

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson moved that, at its rising, the Senate adjourn to Wednesday, 3rd June 2026 – which was agreed to.

12:07p.m. – Senator L.K. Simmons

12:12p.m. – Senator R.J. Wight

12:12p.m. – Senator L.K. Simmons (P.O.O)

12:13p.m. – Senator L.K. Simmons (P.O.O)

12:14p.m. – Senator V.J. Cunningham

12:15p.m

Madam President acknowledged the presence of the Hon. L. Craig Cannonier, MP and Opposition Whip and Mr. R. Scott Pearman, MP, in the Public Gallery.

12:15p.m. – Senator T.J.D. Smith

12:16p.m. – Senator M.G. Fubler

12:28p.m. – Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson

12:34p.m. – Senator V.J. Cunningham (P.O.C)

12:34p.m. – Senator M.G. Fubler (P.O.C)

12:34p.m. – Senator L.F. Bell (P.O.C)

12:36p.m

Madam President acknowledged the presence of Rev. Dr. Emily Gaill Dill, MP, in the Public Gallery.

12:36p.m – Madam President

12:37p.m

Adjourned until Wednesday, 3rd June 2026.

PRESIDENT

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Wednesday – 3rd June 2026

NIL