

BERMUDA

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SENATE

SESSION OF 2025 - 2026

No. 22

MONDAY, 30th MARCH 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. C.C. CAESAR, J.P.
Senator Ms. L.K. SIMMONS
Senator Ms. L.F. BELL
Senator Ms. V.J. CUNNINGHAM
Senator T.J.D. SMITH
Senator D.H. ROGERS

ABSENT:

Senator M.G. FUBLER

10:04a.m.

Senator R.J. Wight moved that the minutes of Monday, 23rd, Wednesday 25th and Thursday, 26th March 2026 be deferred, which was agreed to.

10:05a.m.

Madam President announced that Senator M.G. Fubler would be absent from today's sitting.

10:05a.m.

On behalf of Senator M.G. Fubler, Senator L.F. Bell presented for the information of Senate the "Premier Ministers and Opposition Leader Personal Staffs Act 2019 Annual Report for Fiscal Years 2023-24 and 2024-25"; 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.

10:07a.m.

Senator L.K. Simmons presented for the information of Senate "Annex I - Ending Homelessness together- Plan to End Homelessness";

"Annex II - The Plan to End Homelessness (PTEH)- Homelessness Data, Status, Prioritization and Delivery of the PTEH"; and

"Annex III - National Homelessness Action Plan 2025-2028".

Notices of Motion

10:08a.m.

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson presented for the consideration of Senate the "Proceeds of Crime (Anti-Money Laundering and Anti-Terrorist Financing) Amendment Regulations 2026" proposed to be made by the Minister responsible for justice, in exercise of the power conferred by section 49(3) of the Proceeds of Crime Act 1997 and section 12A of the Anti-Terrorism (Financial and Other Measures) Act 2004; and gave notice that at a later point in the meeting she would move that the said draft Regulations be approved.

10:08a.m.

On behalf of Senator M.G. Fubler, Senator L.F. Bell presented for the consideration of Senate the "Merchant Shipping (Fees) Amendment Regulations 2026" proposed to be made by the Minister responsible for maritime administration, in exercise of the power conferred by section 250 of the Merchant Shipping Act 2002; and gave notice that at a later point in the meeting he would move that the said draft Regulations be approved.

Ministerial Statements

10:09a.m.

Senator L.K. Simmons, as Junior Minister for Youth, Social Development and Seniors, made a Ministerial Statement entitled "Tabling of the Plan to End Homelessness".

Introduction of Bills

10:18a.m.

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

“Charities Amendment Act 2026”

“Cost of Living Commission Amendment Act 2026”

Question Period

10:19a.m.

Senator V.J. Cunningham asked a question to Senator L.K. Simmons on her Ministerial Statement entitled “Tabling of the Plan to End Homelessness”.

Senator V.J. Cunningham asked a second question.

Senator V.J. Cunningham asked a third question.

Senator R.J. Wight

Senator D.H. Rogers asked a question.

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson

Senator L.K. Simmons replied.

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

Senator L.K. Simmons replied.

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar

Orders of the Day

10:31a.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 “Proceeds of Crime (Anti-Money Laundering and Anti-Terrorist Financing) Amendment Regulations 2026”, which was agreed to.

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson moved that Senate do now take under consideration the “Proceeds of Crime (Anti-Money Laundering and Anti-Terrorist Financing) Amendment Regulations 2026” proposed to be made by the Minister responsible for justice, in exercise of the power conferred by section 49(3) of the Proceeds of Crime Act 1997 and section 12A of the Anti-Terrorism (Financial and Other Measures) Act 2004, which was agreed to.

10:36a.m. – Senator V.J. Cunningham

10:37a.m. – Senator R.J. Wight

10:37a.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

10:40a.m. – Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson replied.

10:42a.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

10:43a.m. – Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson replied.

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson moved that the said draft Regulations 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 draft Regulations entitled the “Proceeds of Crime (Anti-Money Laundering and Anti-Terrorist Financing) Amendment Regulations 2026” proposed to be made by the Minister responsible for justice, in exercise of the power conferred by section 49(3) of the Proceeds of Crime Act 1997 and section 12A of the Anti-Terrorism (Financial and Other Measures) Act 2004, has the honour to inform Your Excellency that the Senate has approved the said draft Regulations.”

-- which was agreed to and ordered accordingly.

10:44a.m.

On behalf of Senator M.G. Fubler, Senator L.F. Bell moved that the provisions of Standing Order 71(2) be suspended so that Senate may now proceed with consideration of the “Merchant Shipping (Fees) Amendment Regulations 2026”, which was agreed to.

10:44a.m.

Senator L.F. Bell moved that Senate do now take under consideration the “Merchant Shipping (Fees) Amendment Regulations 2026” proposed to be made by the Minister responsible for maritime administration, in exercise of the power conferred by section 250 of the Merchant Shipping Act 2002, which was agreed to.

10:52a.m.

Madam President acknowledged the presence of the Registrar General, Mr. Aubrey Pennyman; and the Permanent Secretary for the Minister of Youth, Social Development and Seniors, Ms. Pandora Glasford and Mr. Matthew Nester, in the Chamber.

10:52a.m. – Senator R.J. Wight

10:53a.m. – Senator V.J. Cunningham

10:54a.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

10:58a.m. – Senator L.F. Bell replied.

11:03a.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

11:03a.m. – Senator R.J. Wight

11:03a.m. – Senator L.F. Bell replied.

11:04a.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

11:05a.m. – Senator L.F. Bell replied.

11:06a.m. – Senator R.J. Wight

11:07a.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

11:12a.m. Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson

11:14a.m. – Senator L.F. Bell replied.

11:14a.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

11:15a.m. – Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson

11:16a.m. – Senator L.F. Bell replied.

Senator L.F. Bell moved that the said draft Regulations 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 draft Regulations entitled the “Merchant Shipping (Fees) Amendment Regulations 2026” proposed to be made by the Minister responsible for maritime administration, in exercise of the power conferred by section 250 of the Merchant Shipping Act 2002, has the honour to inform Your Excellency that the Senate has approved the said draft Regulations.”

-- which was agreed to and ordered accordingly.

11:17a.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 “Charities Amendment Act 2026”, which was agreed to.

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

Senator L.K. Simmons spoke on the Bill.

11:28a.m. – Senator V.J. Cunningham

11:31a.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

11:31a.m. – Senator R.J. Wight

11:32a.m. – Senator L.K. Simmons replied.

11:35a.m. – Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson

11:36a.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

11:37a.m. – Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson

11:38a.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

11:38a.m. – Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson

11:39a.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 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 “Charities 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.

11:40a.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 Act 2026”, which was agreed to.

Senator L.K. Simmons moved that the Public Bill entitled the “Cost of Living Commission Amendment Act 2026”; be now read the second time, which was agreed to.

Senator L.K. Simmons spoke on the Bill.

11:45a.m. – Senator V.J. Cunningham

11:46a.m. – Senator R.J. Wight

11:48a.m. – Senator L.K. Simmons replied.

11:48a.m. – Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson

11:49a.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 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 “Cost of Living Commission 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.

Congratulations and/or Obituary Speeches

11:50a.m.

Senator T.O.P. Tannock congratulated Bermudian author Aurora Ashbourn on her novella “My Words Are All I Own: The Journal of Eleanor Hargrove”.

Senator D.H. Rogers congratulated 40 students from the Bermuda Institute who participated in a music clinic. He also congratulated Dennis and Carlita O’Brien on their fifth annual couple’s dinner providing services and counselling for relationships.

Senator R.J. Wight offered condolences to the family of the late Ms. Kathy Medeiros, a long-serving nurse at KEMH.

Senator L.K. Simmons congratulated The Berkeley Institute on their fashion show this past weekend and highlighted that Cedarbridge will be hosting theirs in April.

Senator T.J.D. Smith offered condolences to the families of the late Mr. Vincent Jacobs and Mr. Maxwell “Mackie” Simons. He congratulated his son Roman on being invited to a trial with a professional football club.

Senator V.J. Cunningham reminded the listening public on the deadlines for various scholarships being offered for students across the island. She congratulated the National Trust on a successful Palm Sunday Walk. Senator Cunningham also congratulated the Association for Corporate Racial Equity (ACRE). She also wished a safe and happy Easter to all.

Senator L.F. Bell associated with the condolences offered to the families of the late Ms. Kathy Medeiros and Mr. Vincent Jacobs. She associated with the congratulations offered to the National Trust. Senator Bell congratulated the Bermuda Public Service Union (BPSU) on their 9th Triennial Delegates Conference and the new executive.

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson offered condolences to the family of the late Bishop Lloyd Duncan. She congratulated Mr. Ron Virgil on a

concert entitled "He is the King". Minister Wilkerson acknowledged the 2nd Annual Herstory Festival and wished everyone a safe and happy Easter.

Madam President associated with the condolences offered to the families of the late Ms. Kathy Madeiros and Bishop Lloyd Duncan. She also offered condolences to the families of the late Ms. Shirley Portia James and Mrs. Emma Helena Ann Brice.

12:07p.m.

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson moved that, at its rising, the Senate adjourn to Wednesday, 6th May 2026 – which was agreed to.

12:07p.m. – L.K. Simmons

12:15p.m – Madam President

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson moved that the Senate do now adjourn – which was agreed to.

12:16p.m

Adjourned until Wednesday, 6th May 2026.

PRESIDENT

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Wednesday – 6th May 2026

NIL

[Subsequent to the meeting, the adjournment date was changed to Wednesday, 20th May 2026.]