BERMUDA

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SENATE

SESSION OF 2025 - 2026

No. 26

WEDNESDAY, 1st 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. C.C. CAESAR, 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 R.J. Wight, the minutes of the meetings of Wednesday, 3rd June and Wednesday, 17th June 2026 were taken as read and confirmed.

Announcements

10:04a.m.

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar presented for the information of Senate the "Bermuda Monetary Authority 2025 Annual Report" in accordance with section 28(2) of the Bermuda Monetary Authority Act 1969.

10:04a.m.

Madam President acknowledged the presence of Mr. Craig Swan, CEO of the Bermuda Monetary Authority, in the Chamber.

10:05a.m.

Senator M.G. Fubler presented for the information of Senate the "Privacy Commissioner Safeguarding Bermuda Annual Report 2025 –2026" as required by Section 37 of the Personal Information Protection Act 2016.

10:06a.m.

Senator L.K. Simmons presented for the information of Senate "Child Day Care Allowance Amendment Regulations 2026" as made by the Minister responsible for financial assistance, in exercise of the power conferred by section 17 of the Child Day Care Allowance Act 2008.

10:06a.m.

Senator L.F. Bell presented for the information of Senate "Strengthening the Enforcement Powers of Bermuda's Employment and Labour Relations Tribunal Report".

Ministerial Statement

10:07a.m.

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson, as Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, made a Ministerial Statement entitled "The Opening of Astor House: A Symbol of Reintegration and Hope".

10:16a.m.

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar, as Minister of Education, made a Ministerial Statement entitled "The Bermuda Monetary Authority Annual Report 2025".

Introduction of Bills

10:30a.m.

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

"Pensions (Increase) Amendment Act 2026"

"Bermuda Immigration and Protection Amendment Act 2026"

Question Period

10:31a.m.

Senator V.J. Cunningham asked a question to Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson on her Ministerial Statement entitled "The Opening of Astor House: A Symbol of Reintegration and Hope".

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson replied.

Senator V.J. Cunningham asked a supplementary question.

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson replied.

Senator V.J. Cunningham asked a second question.

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson replied.

Senator V.J. Cunningham asked a supplementary question.

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson replied.

Senator V.J. Cunningham asked a third question.

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson replied.

Senator V.J. Cunningham asked a supplementary question.

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson replied.

Senator R.J. Wight asked a question.

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson replied.

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

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson replied.

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

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson replied.

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

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson replied.

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

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson replied.

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

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson replied.

Senator D.H. Rogers asked a question.

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson replied.

Senator D.H. Rogers asked a supplementary question.

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson replied.

Senator D.H. Rogers asked a second question.

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson replied.

Senator V.J. Cunningham asked a question to Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar on her Ministerial Statement entitled "The Bermuda Monetary Authority Annual Report 2025".

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar replied.

Senator V.J. Cunningham asked a second question.

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar replied.

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

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar replied.

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson replied.

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

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar replied.

Senator D.H. Rogers asked a question.

11:01a.m. – Senator M.G. Fubler (P.O.O)
11:01a.m. – Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar (P.O.O)

Senator T.O.P. Tannock provided clarification on her prior question.

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar replied.

Orders of the Day

11:04a.m.

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar 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 "Pensions (Increase) Amendment Act 2026", which was agreed to.

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar moved that the Public Bill entitled the "Pensions (Increase) Amendment Act 2026" be now read the second time, which was agreed to.

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar spoke on the Bill.

11:09a.m. – Senator V.J. Cunningham

11:11a.m. – Senator R.J. Wight

11:14a.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

11:21a.m. – Senator R.J. Wight

11:22a.m. – Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar replied.

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar moved that the Bill be now read a second time, which was objected to by Senator R.J. Wight and Senator T.O.P. Tannock.

The motion was affirmed on Division with a vote of 9 Ayes to 2 Nays.

AYES: Senator L.F. Bell, Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar, Senator M.G. Fubler, Senator L.K. Simmons, Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson, Senator V.J. Cunningham, Senator D.H. Rogers, Senator T.J.D. Smith, Madam President.

NAYS: Senator T.O.P. Tannock, Senator R.J. Wight.

The Bill was accordingly read a second time.

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

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar moved that the Bill be now read a third time, which was agreed to.

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar moved that the Bill entitled the "Pensions (Increase) Amendment Act 2026" do now pass, which was objected to Senator R.J. Wight and Senator T.O.P. Tannock.

The motion was affirmed on Division with a vote of 9 Ayes to 2 Nays.

AYES: Senator L.F. Bell, Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar, Senator M.G. Fubler, Senator L.K. Simmons, Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson, Senator V.J. Cunningham, Senator D.H. Rogers, Senator T.J.D. Smith, Madam President.

NAYS: Senator T.O.P. Tannock, Senator R.J. Wight.

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.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 Immigration and Protection Amendment Act 2026", which was agreed to.

Senator L.F. Bell moved that the Public Bill entitled the "Bermuda Immigration and Protection Amendment Act 2026" be now read the second time, which was agreed to.

Senator L.F. Bell spoke on the Bill.

11:45a.m. – Senator V.J. Cunningham

11:45a.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 Immigration and Protection 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 R.J. Wight offered condolences to the family of the late Mr. Rickai Raynor.

Senator T.O.P. Tannock associated with the condolences offered to the family of Mr. Rickai Raynor. Senator T.O.P. Tannock offered condolences to the family of the late Hon. Sir John Swan.

Senator L.K. Simmons associated with the condolences offered to the family of Mr. Rickai Raynor, brother of the Hon. Jache A.K. Adams, Minister of Public Works and Environment. Senator L.K. Simmons also associated with the condolences offered to the family of the late Hon. Sir John Swan.

Senator V.J. Cunningham associated with the condolences offered to the family of the late Hon. Sir John Swan. She also congratulated the awardees of the National Trust Awards. She also congratulated the 2026 graduates of Berkeley Institute, Cedarbridge Academy, private school graduates and students returning from overseas. Senator Cunningham congratulated the United States on their 250th anniversary of independence.

Senator R.J. Wight associated with the condolences offered to the family of the late Hon. Sir John Swan.

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar on the young people celebrating their leaving ceremonies across the island, including Ever Leverock going into Primary 1 in September.

Senator M.G. Fubler associated with the condolences offered to the family of Mr. Rickai Raynor. He also remembered his great uncle Gilbert Darrell, a former parliamentarian, who would have celebrated his 103rd birthday. Senator Fubler associated with the congratulations extended to students across the island on completing another year, as well as the educators. He also congratulated Anguilla's House of Assembly, in partnership with CPA UK and UNESCO, on hosting a Caribbean AI Workshop, which brought together parliamentarians to discuss AI governance, cybersecurity, and digital transformation.

Senator T.J.D. Smith associated with the condolences offered to the families of the late Mr. Rickai Raynor and Hon. Sir John Swan. He also congratulated his son Roman on graduating and wishes him all the best as he enters Plymouth University in the Fall.

Senator the Hon K.R. Wilkerson associated with the condolences offered to the families of the late Mr. Rickai Raynor and Hon. Sir John Swan.

Madam President associated with the condolences offered to the families of the late Mr. Rickai Raynor and Hon. Sir John Swan. She also offered condolences to the family of the late Mr. Daniel Edward Griffin III. Madam President associated with the congratulations offered to the island's graduates.

12:15p.m.

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson moved that, at its rising, the Senate adjourn to Wednesday, 15th July 2026 – which was agreed to.

12:16p.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock
12:16p.m. – Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar (P.O.O)

12:17p.m – Madam President

12:16p.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock
12:17p.m. – Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar (P.O.O)
12:19p.m. – Senator L.K. Simmons (P.O.O)

12:20p.m. – Senator R.J. Wight
12:20p.m. – Senator L.K. Simmons (P.O.O)

12:21p.m – Madam President

12:22p.m. – Senator L.K. Simmons

12:30p.m. – Senator M.G. Fubler

12:31p.m. – Senator T.J.D. Smith

12:34p.m

Adjourned until Wednesday, 15th July 2026.

PRESIDENT

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Wednesday – 15th July 2026

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