

BERMUDA

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SENATE

SESSION OF 2025 - 2026

No. 16

WEDNESDAY, 10th DECEMBER 2025

PRESENT:

- Senator the Hon. Mrs. J.E. DILLAS-WRIGHT,
M.B.E., J.P. - 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 D.E. SMITH
- Senator T.J.D. SMITH

ABSENT:

Senator R.J. WIGHT – VICE PRESIDENT

10:05a.m.

Senator T.O.P. Tannock moved that the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday, 26th November 2025 were taken as read.

Senator V.J. Cunningham noted that the timings on page 3, second column, are incorrect.

Senator T.O.P. Tannock moved that subject to the noted correction, the minutes be confirmed – which was agreed to.

Announcements

10:07a.m.

Madam President announced that Senator R.J. Wight will be absent from today’s sitting.

10:07a.m.

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson presented for the information of Senate the “Criminal Code (Prohibited Weapons) Amendment Order 2025” as made by the Governor, in exercise of the power conferred by section 315A of the Criminal Code Act 1907.

10:08a.m.

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar presented for the information of Senate the “Bermuda College Annual Report 2024 – 2025”; and

The “Bermuda College Audited Financial Statements for the year ended March 31, 2025”.

10:08a.m.

Senator L.F. Bell presented for the information of Senate the “November 2024 Labour Force Survey Report”.

Notice of Motion

10:09a.m.

Senator L.F. Bell presented for the consideration of Senate “Statistics (Census of Population and Housing) Order 2025” proposed to be made by the Minister responsible for statistics, in exercise of the power conferred by section 5(3) of the Statistics Act 2002; and gave notice that at a later point in the meeting she would move that the said draft Order be approved.

Ministerial Statements

10:09a.m.

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson, as Attorney-General and Minister of Justice, made a Ministerial Statement entitled “Joint Ministerial Council 2025”.

10:16a.m.

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar, as Minister of Education, made a Ministerial Statement entitled “Bermuda College Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements 2024-2025”.

Introduction of Bills

10:26a.m.

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

The "Corporate Income Tax Amendment (No.2) Act 2025"; and

The "Tax Credits Act 2025".

Question Period

10:26a.m.

Senator V.J. Cunningham asked a question to Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson on her Ministerial Statement entitled "Joint Ministerial Council 2025".

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

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson replied.

Senator T.O.P. Tannock asked a third 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 "Bermuda College Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements 2024-2025".

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar replied.

Senator V.J. Cunningham asked a second question.

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar replied.

Senator V.J. Cunningham asked a third question.

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar replied.

Senator V.J. Cunningham asked a supplementary question.

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar replied.

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson replied.

Orders of the Day

10:51a.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 the "Corporate Income Tax Amendment (No.2) Act 2025"; which was agreed to.

10:52a.m.

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar moved that the Public Bill entitled the "Corporate Income Tax Amendment (No.2) Act 2025"; be now read the second time, which was agreed to.

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

10:57a.m.

Madam President acknowledged the presence of Ms. Genesis Iris from the Ministry of Finance and Ms. Michelle Hajek from the Corporate Income Tax Agency, in the Chamber.

10:57a.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

10:59a.m. – Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar replied.

11:00a.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

11:01a.m. – Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar replied.

11:02a.m. – Senator V.J. Cunningham

11:03a.m. – Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar replied.

11:04a.m. – Senator V.J. Cunningham

11:04a.m. – Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar replied.

11:04a.m. – Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson replied.

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.

The Bill was accordingly read a third time.

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar moved that the Bill entitled the "Corporate Income Tax Amendment (No.2) Act 2025" 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.

11:08a.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 the "Tax Credits Act 2025", which was agreed to.

11:08a.m.

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar moved that the Public Bill entitled the "Tax Credits Act 2025" be now read the second time, which was agreed to.

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

11:17a.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

11:21a.m. – Senator V.J. Cunningham

11:25a.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

11:27a.m. – Senator M.G. Fubler
(11:36a.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock P.O.O)

11:40a.m. – Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar

11:46a.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

11:51a.m. – Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson

12:02p.m. – Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar replied.

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.

The Bill was accordingly read a third time.

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar moved that the Bill entitled the "Tax Credits Act 2025" 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.

12:04p.m.

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 "Statistics (Census of Population and Housing) Order 2025", which was agreed to.

12:05p.m.

Senator L.F. Bell moved that Senate do now take under consideration the "Statistics (Census of Population and Housing) Order 2025" proposed to be made by the Minister responsible for statistics, in exercise of the power conferred by section 5(3) of the Statistics Act 2002, which was agreed to.

12:11p.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

12:11p.m. – Senator V.J. Cunningham

12:12p.m.

Madam President acknowledged the presence of Ms. Aideen Ratteray-Pryse, Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Economy and Labour, Ms. Melinda Williams from the Department of Statistics and Ms. Lovette Tannock from the Attorney-General's Chambers, in the Chamber.

12:12p.m. – Senator L.F. Bell replied.

12:14p.m. – Senator V.J. Cunningham

12:14p.m. – Senator L.F. Bell replied.

Senator L.F. Bell moved that the said draft Order 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 Order entitled the “Statistics (Census of Population and Housing) Order 2025” proposed to be made by the Minister responsible for statistics, in exercise of the power conferred by section 5(3) of the Statistics Act 2002, has the honour to inform Your Excellency that the Senate has approved the said draft Order.”

-- which was agreed to and ordered accordingly.

Congratulations and/or Obituary Speeches

12:16p.m.

Senator T.O.P. Tannock congratulated MarketPlace on their Christmas Parade which was dedicated to Mr. Vernon Hassell, who was a longtime employee who passed earlier this year. She also highlighted the scholarship they create in his name which speaks to the

Senator L.K. Simmons thanked everyone who has come out to support the Angel Tree Christmas Project.

Senator M.G. Fubler associated with the congratulations offered to MarketPlace. He also congratulated the PLP Seniors’ Tea hosted by the Constituency 29 team. He also highlighted the 70th anniversary of Rosa Parks, best known for her refusal to move from her seat on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama.

Senator V.J. Cunningham congratulated BMDS on a wonderful pantomime this holiday season. She also congratulated ABIR on their recently hosted reception to recognise newly appointed and promoted C-suite executives from Bermuda’s international re/insurance sector. She also wished all overseas students returning to the island for the holidays safe travels.

Senator D.E. Smith offered condolences to the families of the late Ms. Cathy-Ann Ray, Ms. Celine Dill, Ms. Scherrie Lynn Golden, Ms. Ingrid Pitt, Mr. Garth Hayward and Mr. Lawrence Raynor.

Senator T.J.D. Smith associated with the condolences offered to the family of Ms. Cathy-Ann Ray. He also offered condolences to the families of Mr. Gerald Fubler, Ms. June North and Ms. Deanna Wade.

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar congratulated all of the Bermuda Public Schools who participated in the Skyport Annual Carol Off and best wishes to all the winners who will compete this upcoming weekend.

Senator L.F. Bell associated with the congratulations extended to MarketPlace on their successful annual Christmas Parade. She also associated with the congratulatory remarks offered to BMDS on their annual holiday pantomime. Senator Bell also offered congratulations to the Bermuda National Trust on hosting their annual Christmas Walkabout which was excellent.

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson offered condolences to the family of the late Ms. Kehinde George. She also associated with the congratulations extended to ABIR on their recent reception.

Madam President associated with the condolences offered to the family of Ms. Kehinde George.

12:49p.m.

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson moved that, at its rising, the Senate adjourn to Wednesday, 17th December 2025 – which was agreed to.

12:49p.m. – Senator L.K. Simmons
(12:52p.m. – Senator V.J. Cunningham P.O.O)

12:54p.m. – Senator T.J.D. Smith

12:57p.m. – Senator L.F. Bell

1:07p.m. – Senator M.G. Fubler

1:12p.m.

Adjourned until Wednesday, 17th December 2025.

PRESIDENT

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Wednesday - 17th December 2025

NIL