

BERMUDA

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SENATE

SESSION OF 2025 - 2026

No. 15

WEDNESDAY, 26th NOVEMBER 2025

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 D.E. SMITH
Senator T.J.D. SMITH

ABSENT:

Senator the Hon. K.R. WILKERSON, J.P.

10:07a.m.

On the motion of Senator R.J. Wight, the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday, 12th November 2025 were taken as read and confirmed.

Announcements

10:09a.m.

Madam President announced that Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson will be absent from today's sitting.

10:09a.m.

Senator L.F. Bell presented for the information of Senate the "2021 Bermuda Hospitals Board Annual Report".

10:10a.m.

Senator M.G. Fubler presented for the information of Senate the "Fairmont Southampton Hotel and Resort Master Plan (Southampton Parish) Special Development Order 2025" as made by the Minister responsible for planning, in exercise of the power conferred by section 15(1) of the Development and Planning Act 1974.

Notice of Motion

10:11a.m.

Senator M.G. Fubler presented for the consideration of Senate the "Clean Air Amendment Regulations 2025" proposed to be made by the Minister responsible for the environment, in exercise of the power conferred by section 11 of the Clean Air Act 1991; and gave notice that at a later point in the meeting he would move that the said draft Regulations be approved.

Ministerial Statements

10:12a.m.

Senator L.K. Simmons, as Junior Minister of Home Affairs, made a Ministerial Statement entitled "Introduction of the Atlantic Child Advocacy Alliance".

10:19a.m.

Madam President acknowledged the presence of Dr. Freddie Evans, Assistant Registrar General, Ms. JeanAnn Stovell, Charities Compliance Administrator and Mr. Anthony King from the Registry General's Office, in the Chamber.

Introduction of Bills

10:20a.m.

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

The "Companies (Prohibition of Bearer Shares and Nominee Directors) Amendment Act 2025".

Question Period

10:20a.m.

Senator V.J. Cunningham asked a question to Senator L.K. Simmons on her Ministerial Statement entitled “Introduction of the Atlantic Child Advocacy Alliance”.

Senator L.K. Simmons replied.

Senator V.J. Cunningham asked a second question.

Senator L.K. Simmons replied.

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

Senator L.K. Simmons replied.

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

Senator L.K. Simmons replied.

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

Senator L.K. Simmons replied.

10:25a.m.

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

Senator the Hon. Crystal C. Caesar, Minister of Education, to provide Written Response to a Parliamentary Question by Senator Victoria J. Cunningham.

1. Can the Honourable Minister please provide the Senate a list broken down by public school listing the number and grade level of classes that are currently: (a) without a permanent teacher, (b) being taught by a long-term or short-term substitute, (c) being covered by other school staff outside their substantive role, or (d) combined with another class; and for each school, how long this arrangement has been in place, including the longest period any class has remained without a permanent classroom teacher?

Senator the Hon. Crystal C. Caesar, Minister of Education, to provide Oral Response to Parliamentary Questions by Senator Victoria J. Cunningham.

*1. While Gifted & Talented Education is being reignited, can the Honourable Minister please provide the Senate an outline of the resources that are currently being invested to stabilise classroom teaching across the entire primary school system, given the widespread reports of prolonged vacancies, rotating substitutes, and classes without permanent teachers, issues that directly undermine students’ ability to meet grade-level expectations?

*2. Can the Honourable Minister please inform the Senate what protections are being put in place for primary school students who may be falling behind because repeated teacher turnover and long-term reliance on substitutes have become systemic issues, resulting in inconsistent instruction across multiple schools?

Senator V.J. Cunningham asked a supplementary question.

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar replied.

Orders of the Day

10:36a.m.

Senator L.K. Simmons moved that the Public Bill entitled the “Charities Amendment Act 2025” be now read the second time, which was agreed to.

Senator L.K. Simmons spoke on the Bill.

10:47a.m.

Madam President acknowledged the presence of Ms. Valerie Robinson-James, Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Youth, Social Development and Seniors, in the Chamber.

10:48a.m. – Senator V.J. Cunningham

10:48a.m. – Senator R.J. Wight

10:50a.m. – Senator L.K. Simmons replied.

10:51a.m. – Senator R.J. Wight

10:52a.m. – Senator L.K. Simmons replied.

10:54a.m. – Senator R.J. Wight

10:54a.m. – Senator L.K. Simmons replied.

10:55a.m. – Senator R.J. Wight

10:55a.m. – Senator L.K. Simmons replied.

10:56a.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

10:57a.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 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.

10:59a.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 “Companies (Prohibition of Bearer Shares and Nominee Directors) Amendment Act 2025”, which was agreed to.

10:59a.m.

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar moved that the Public Bill entitled the “Companies (Prohibition of Bearer Shares and Nominee Directors) Amendment Act 2025” be now read the second time, which was agreed to.

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

11:05a.m. – Senator R.J. Wight

11:05a.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

11:07a.m. – Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar replied.

11:08a.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

11:09a.m. – Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar replied.

11:10a.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

11:10a.m. – Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar replied.

11:12a.m. – Senator V.J. Cunningham

11:10a.m. – Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar replied.

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar moved that the Bill be now read a second time, agreed to, Senator T.O.P. Tannock objecting.

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 “Companies (Prohibition of Bearer Shares and Nominee Directors) Amendment 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.

11:15a.m.

Senator M.G. Fubler moved that the provisions of Standing Order 71(2) be suspended so that Senate may now proceed with consideration of the “Clean Air Amendment Regulations 2025”, which was agreed to.

11:15a.m.

Senator M.G. Fubler moved that Senate do now take under consideration the “Clean Air Amendment Regulations 2025” proposed to be

made by the Minister responsible for the environment, in exercise of the power conferred by section 11 of the Clean Air Act 1991, which was agreed to.

11:25a.m.

Madam President acknowledged the presence of Dr. Geoff Smith, Director of Energy and Natural Resources and Mr. Stephen Symons, Policy Analyst for the Ministry of Public Works and Environment, in the Chamber.

11:27a.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

11:28a.m. – Senator V.J. Cunningham

11:29a.m. – Senator R.J. Wight

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

11:33a.m. – Senator R.J. Wight

11:34a.m. – Senator M.G. Fubler replied.

11:36a.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

11:36a.m. – Senator M.G. Fubler replied.

11:37a.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

11:38a.m. – Senator M.G. Fubler replied.

11:38a.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

11:39a.m. – Senator M.G. Fubler replied.

Senator M.G. Fubler 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 “Clean Air Amendment Regulations 2025” proposed to be made by the Minister responsible for the environment, in exercise of the power conferred by section 11 of the Clean Air Act 1991, has the honour to inform Your Excellency that the Senate has approved the said draft Regulations.”

-- which was agreed to and ordered accordingly.

Congratulations and/or Obituary Speeches

11:40a.m.

Senator R.J. Wight offered condolences to the family of the late Ms. Sonia Grant.

Senator V.J. Cunningham offered condolences to the family of the late Dr. Eugene Harvey. She offered congratulations to the OBA Warwick team on the recent successful Seniors’ Tea. Senator Cunningham also congratulated Noah DeSilva on being announced as the 2026 Rhodes Scholar, as well as the Gombey Warriors on a great season.

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar congratulated the Bermuda Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority who hosted their Annual Children’s Reading Festival.

Senator M.G. Fubler associated with the congratulations extended to Delta Sigma Theta and associated with the comments extended to the Gombey Warriors. He congratulated Whitney Middle School’s debate team. Senator Fubler offered best wishes to the women’s Gombey Warriors national team. He extended condolences to the families of the late Mr. Gary Williams and Ms. Cleta Glenora Astwood. He also offered condolences to the family of the late Ms. Debra Marie Brangman on the twentieth anniversary of her passing.

Senator L.K. Simmons associated with the condolences offered to the family of the late Ms. Sonia Grant. She thanked the Institute of Bermuda Architects (IBA) on hosting their annual 2025 Cardboard Boat Challenge. She highlighted that Cedarbridge Academy will be hosting their annual Mr. and Ms. Cedarbridge this coming weekend. Senator Simmons also highlighted the 9th Annual Angel Tree Christmas Project.

Senator T.J.D. Smith associated with the congratulations offered to the women’s national football team. He offered condolences to the families of the late Mr. Sinclair Dawson Robinson and Ms. Shanai Swan.

Madam President associated with the condolences offered to the families of the late Ms. Sonia Grant and Dr. Eugene Harvey. She also offered condolences to her family on the passing of her cousin, Mr. Chauncey Durham.

11:52a.m.

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar moved that, at its rising, the Senate adjourn to Wednesday, 10th December 2025 – which was agreed to.

11:53a.m. – Senator D.E. Smith

11:57a.m. – Senator M.G. Fubler

12:09p.m. – Senator R.J. Wight

12:10p.m. – Senator V.J. Cunningham

12:12p.m. – Senator L.F. Bell

12:17p.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

12:19p.m.

Adjourned until Wednesday, 10th December 2025.

PRESIDENT

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Wednesday – 10th December 2025

NIL