

BERMUDA

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SENATE

SESSION OF 2025 - 2026

No. 3

WEDNESDAY, 2nd APRIL 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 M.J.A. JONES, J.P.
Senator Ms. V.J. CUNNINGHAM
Senator M.E. FOLEY

10:02a.m.

On the motion of Senator R.J. Wight, the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday, 26th March 2025 were taken as read and confirmed.

Announcements

10:03a.m.

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson presented for the information of Senate “The Information Commissioner’s 2024 Annual Report” as required by Section 58(1) of the Public Access to Information (PATI) Act 2010.

10:03a.m.

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson presented for the information of Senate the “Audited Financial Statement of the Office of the Information Commissioner (ICO) for the fiscal year ending 31st March 2023”; and

The “Audited Financial Statement of the Office of the Information Commissioner (ICO) for the fiscal year ending 31st March 2024”.

10:05a.m.

Senator L.K. Simmons presented for the information of Senate the “Financial Assistance Amendment Regulations 2024” as made by the Minister responsible for financial assistance, in exercise of the power conferred by section 21 of the Financial Assistance Act 2001.

Notice of Motion

10:05a.m.

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar hereby presented the following Resolution and gave notice that she would propose to move the following Resolution at a later point in the meeting:

WHEREAS it is provided by Section 3 of the Ministers and Members of the Legislature (Salaries and Pensions) Act 1975 (the “principal Act”) that Schedule 2 to the principal Act may be amended from time to time by resolution Passed by both the Senate and the House of Assembly;

AND WHEREAS it is expedient that Schedule 2 to the principal Act be now amended;

“BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Honourable House of Assembly and the Senate, pursuant to the provisions of Section 3 of the Ministers and Members of the Legislature (Salaries and Pensions) Act 1975, hereby amend Schedule 2 to the said Act by –

- (i) inserting immediately below the office of “Premier”, the offices of “Deputy Premier”, “Attorney General” and “Minister of Finance”; and
- (ii) deleting the office of “Parliamentary Secretaries” and substituting the office of “Junior Ministers”.

Ministerial Statements

10:07a.m.

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar, as Minister of Education, made a Ministerial Statement entitled “Update on 2025 Ministry of Education Scholarships and Awards”.

10:14a.m.

Madam President acknowledged the presence of Mr. Vernon Wears from the Ministry of National Security, in the Chamber.

10:15a.m.

Senator L.K. Simmons, as Junior Minister for National Security, made a Ministerial Statement entitled "Upgrade of the CCTV Network Update".

10:23a.m.

Madam President acknowledged the presence of Mr. Dana Lovell, Chief Fire Officer, in the Chamber.

10:23a.m.

Senator L.K. Simmons, as Junior Minister for National Security, made a Ministerial Statement entitled "National Fire Chiefs Council Peer-Led Review of the Bermuda Fire and Rescue Service".

10:30a.m.

Senator L.K. Simmons, as Junior Minister for National Security, made a Ministerial Statement entitled "Recent Youth Violence in Our Community".

10:38a.m.

Senator M.G. Fubler, as Junior Minister of Health, made a Ministerial Statement entitled "Dementia Care Services Pilot Programme Update".

Introduction of Bills

10:50a.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 (Penalty Provisions) Amendment Act 2025";

The "Municipalities Amendment Act 2025"; and

The "Employment Amendment Act 2025".

Question Period

10:51a.m.

Senator V.J. Cunningham asked a question to Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar on her Ministerial Statement entitled "Update on 2025 Ministry of Education Scholarships and Awards".

Senator V.J. Cunningham asked a supplementary question.

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

Senator V.J. Cunningham asked a second question.

Senator V.J. Cunningham asked a third question.

Senator M.J.A. Jones asked a question.

Senator M.J.A. Jones asked a second question.

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

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar replied.

Senator M.J.A. Jones re-asked a question.

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar replied.

Senator R.J. Wight asked a question to Senator L.K. Simmons on her Ministerial Statement entitled "Upgrade of the CCTV Network Update".

Senator M.J.A. Jones asked a question.

Senator M.J.A. Jones asked a second question.

Senator M.J.A. Jones asked a third question.

Senator L.K. Simmons replied.

Senator M.J.A. Jones asked a question to Senator L.K. Simmons on her Ministerial Statement entitled "National Fire Chiefs Council Peer-Led Review of the Bermuda Fire and Rescue Service".

Senator M.J.A. Jones asked a second question.

Senator L.K. Simmons replied.

Senator M.J.A. Jones asked a question to Senator L.K. Simmons on her Ministerial Statement entitled “Recent Youth Violence in Our Community”.

Senator V.J. Cunningham asked a question.

Senator V.J. Cunningham asked a second question.

Senator L.K. Simmons replied.

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson replied.

Senator R.J. Wight asked a question to Senator M.G. Fubler on his Ministerial Statement entitled “Dementia Care Services Pilot Programme Update”.

Senator V.J. Cunningham asked a question.

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

Senator M.G. Fubler replied.

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

Senator M.G. Fubler replied.

Orders of the Day

11:33a.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 Readings of the Public Bills entitled:

The “Corporate Income Tax (Penalty Provisions) Amendment Act 2025”;
The “Municipalities Amendment Act 2025”; and
The “Employment Amendment Act 2025”

-- which was agreed to.

11:34a.m.

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar moved that the Public Bill entitled the “Corporate Income Tax (Penalty Provisions) Amendment Act 2025” be now read the second time.

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

11:43a.m. – Senator M.J.A. Jones

11:46a.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

11:49a.m. – Senator R.J. Wight

11:49a.m.

Madam President acknowledged the presence of Ms. Genesis Iris from the Ministry of Finance and Ms. Gwen Johnson, Parliamentary Counsel, in the Chamber.

11:50am. – 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 “Corporate Income Tax (Penalty Provisions) 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.

11:54a.m.

Senator L.F. Bell moved that the Public Bill entitled the “Municipalities Amendment Act 2025” be now read the second time.

Senator L.F. Bell spoke on the Bill.

12:00p.m. – Senator M.J.A. Jones

12:12p.m.

Madam President acknowledged the presence of Mr. Drew Petit, Permanent Secretary

for the Ministry of Housing and Municipalities, in the Chamber.

12:12p.m. – Senator R.J. Wight

12:12p.m. – Senator T.O.P. Tannock

12:14p.m. – Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson

12:19p.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 “Municipalities Amendment Act 2025” do now pass, which was objected to by Senator M.J.A. Jones, Senator V.J. Cunningham, Senator M.E. Foley and Senator T.O.P. Tannock.

The passage of the Bill was affirmed on Division with a vote of 7 Ayes to 4 Nays.

AYES: Senator L.F. Bell, Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar, Senator M.G. Fubler, Senator L.K. Simmons, Senator K.R. Wilkerson, Senator R.J. Wight and Madam President.

NAYS: Senator V.J. Cunningham, Senator M.J.A. Jones, Senator M.E. Foley and Senator T.O.P. Tannock.

The Bill was accordingly passed and ordered to be laid before His Excellency the Governor for His Excellency’s assent.

12:26p.m.

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson moved that Senate do now adjourn for lunch and return at 2:00p.m.

2:01p.m.

The Senate resumed.

2:01p.m.

Senator L.F. Bell moved that the Public Bill entitled the “Employment Amendment Act 2025” be now read the second time.

Senator L.F. Bell spoke on the Bill.

2:09p.m.

Madam President acknowledged the presence of Ms. Gabrielle Cann, Director of Labour, in the Chamber.

2:09p.m. – Senator M.J.A. Jones

2:11p.m. – Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson

2:12p.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 “Employment 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.

Motion to Move

2:14p.m.

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar moved that the provisions of Standing Order 71(2) be suspended, which was agreed to.

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar moved that Senate do now take under consideration the following Resolution:

“WHEREAS it is provided by Section 3 of the Ministers and Members of the Legislature (Salaries and Pensions) Act 1975 (the “principal Act”) that

Schedule 2 to the principal Act may be amended from time to time by resolution Passed by both the Senate and the House of Assembly;

AND WHEREAS it is expedient that Schedule 2 to the principal Act be now amended;

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That the Honourable House of Assembly and the Senate, pursuant to the provisions of Section 3 of the Ministers and Members of the Legislature (Salaries and Pensions) Act 1975, hereby amend Schedule 2 to the said Act by –

- (i) inserting immediately below the office of “Premier”, the offices of “Deputy Premier”, “Attorney General” and “Minister of Finance”; and
- (ii) deleting the office of “Parliamentary Secretaries” and substituting the office of “Junior Ministers”.

-- which was agreed to.

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

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar moved that the Resolution be approved, which was agreed to.

Congratulations and/or Obituary Speeches

2:17p.m.

Senator M.G. Fubler congratulated the Gold Bermudians documentary series held by the Department of Culture.

Senator the Hon. C.C. Caesar congratulated the young people who participated in the inaugural Verbal Victory Spelling Bee finals held at the Berkeley Institute. She also congratulated the participants of the Minister of Education’s Debate Challenge.

Senator V.J. Cunningham congratulated Cedarbridge Academy on the celebration of their diverse learning environment, language and culture. She also congratulated Bermuda College on their 50th Anniversary Gala being held this weekend. Senator Cunningham congratulated Inter Bermuda on winning the Corona League, a team in which her cousin’s son Rory McKittrick is a member. She wished everyone a Happy Easter.

Senator M.E. Foley congratulated Ms. Elaine Fox on the publishing of her book ‘The Community of Southside, St David’s: Before, During and After WWII’.

Senator L.K. Simmons thanked Constituencies 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 for coming together to host an Easter Fun Day for the Devonshire/Smith’s residents at Elliott Primary.

Senator M.J.A. Jones offered condolences to the family of the late Mr. George Francis. He also offered condolences to the family of the late Mr. Leo Custudio.

Madam President associated herself with the congratulations extended to the contestants of the Verbal Victory Spelling Bee. She also associated herself with the congratulations extended to the Bermuda College on their 50th Anniversary.

2:29p.m.

Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson moved that, at its rising, the Senate adjourn to Monday, 2nd June 2025 – which was agreed to.

2:29p.m. – Senator the Hon. K.R. Wilkerson

2:34p.m. – Senator M.E. Foley

2:47p.m. – Madam President

2:49p.m.

Adjourned until Monday, 2nd June 2025.

PRESIDENT

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Monday – 2nd June 2025

NIL

[Subsequent to the meeting, the adjournment date was changed to Tuesday, 20th May 2025.]