

Proceedings
of the
Honourable House of Assembly
Session of 2026-2027

No.32

Monday, 16th March, 2026

Members Present:

His Honour the Speaker | The Hon. Jache A. K. Adams | Dr. Leroy G. W. Bean | The Hon. E. David G. Burt | Mr. Vance M. E. Campbell
The Hon. L. Craig Cannonier | The Hon. Owen K. Darrell | Dr. Douglas S. J. De Couto | The Hon. Zane J. S. DeSilva | Mr. Curtis L. Dickinson | Rev. Dr. Emily G. A. Dill | The Hon. Michael M. Fahy | Ms. Lovitta F. Foggo | The Hon. Tinée S. Furbert | The Hon. Wayne L. Furbert | The Hon. Jason P. Hayward | Mr. L. M. Robert King | The Hon. Alexa N. H. Lightbourne | Mr. Dennis J. R. Lister | Mrs. Renée D. L. Ming | Mr. R. Scott Pearman | The Hon. Diallo V. S. Rabain | Mr. Jarion C. Richardson | Mr. Dwayne V. Robinson | Mr. W. Lawrence A. Scott | Mr. Jamahl S. Simmons | The Hon. Ben A. Smith | Ms. Linda C. Smith | Mr. H. Kim E. Swan | Ms. Robin S. Tucker | Mr. Neville S. Tyrrell | The Hon. Michael A. Weeks | The Hon. Kim N. Wilson

This meeting of the House was held at the House Chamber, 3rd Floor, Veritas Place, 65 Court Street, City of Hamilton.

10:02 a.m.

His Honour the Speaker in the Chair.

Prayers

10:04 a.m.

Minutes of the Meeting of 11th and 13th March, 2026 were deferred.

Announcements by the Speaker

His Honour the Speaker informed Members of the absence of, Mr. T. C. Famous from the House of Assembly proceedings.

10:05 a.m.

Papers and Other Communications to the House

The Hon. J. P. Hayward, Minister of Economy and Labour, read the following communication to His Honour the Speaker: -

“I have the honour to attach and submit for the information of the Honourable House of Assembly the **“Economic Development Strategy 2023-2027-Strategic Priority 3: Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development-2023-2027 Update”**.”

The Hon. K. N. Wilson, Minister of Health, read the following communication to His Honour the Speaker: -

“I have the honour to attach and submit for the consideration of the Honourable House of Assembly the **“Health Insurance (Standard Health Benefit) Amendment Regulations 2026”**, proposed to be made by the Minister for Health, acting on the recommendation of the Council, in exercise of the power conferred by section 40 of the Health Insurance Act 1970.

Statements by Ministers and Junior Ministers

Statement entitled “44th Annual Sports Awards: Elevating Sports Together” was read by the Hon. O. K. Darrell, Minister of Tourism and Transport, Culture and Sport.

10:11 a.m.

Statement entitled “Updates on the Bermuda Economic Development Strategy 2023-2027- Strategic Priority 3: Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development” was read by the Hon. J. P. Hayward, Minister of Economy and Labour.

Question Period

10:15 a.m.

Dr. D. S. J. De Couto asked the Hon. J. P. Hayward a question in reference to the Ministerial Statement entitled “Updates on the Bermuda Economic Development Strategy 2023-2027- Strategic Priority 3: Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development”.

The Hon. J. P. Hayward replied.

Introduction of Bills

10:16 a.m.

The Hon. K. N. Wilson read for the first time by its title a Bill entitled the “Health Insurance (Mutual Re-Insurance Fund) (Prescribed Sum) Validation Act 2026”.

Orders of the Day

10:18 a.m.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt moved that the House resolve into Committee of Supply for further consideration of the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the Fiscal Year 2026/2027, which was agreed to.

Mr. R. S. Pearman in the Chair for Committee of Supply.

The Hon. D. V. S. Rabain moved that the following Non-Ministry Heads be now taken under consideration, which was agreed to: -

- 02 Legislature
- 05 Office of the Auditor General
- 56 Human Rights Commission
- 63 Parliamentary Registrar
- 85 Ombudsman’s Office
- 92 Internal Audit
- 98 Information Commissioner’s Office
- 101 Privacy Commissioner’s Office

10:19 a.m.

The Hon. D. V. S. Rabain presented the Budget Brief on Head 02.

10:47 a.m.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt presented the Budget Brief on Head 05.

10:49 a.m.

Mr. R. S. Pearman

10:50 a.m.

Mr. R. S. Pearman

11:04 a.m.

Mr. R. S. Pearman

The Hon. T. S. Furbert presented the Budget Brief on Head 56.

11:31 a.m.

The Hon. D. V. S. Rabain presented the Budget Brief on Head 63.

11:41 a.m.

Mr. R. S. Pearman

11:45 a.m.

The Hon. D. V. S. Rabain presented the Budget Brief on Head 85.

11:53 a.m.

Mr. R. S. Pearman

11:54 a.m.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt presented corrections on the Budget Brief for Head 05, Office of the Auditor General.

12:05 p.m.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt presented the Budget Brief on Head 92.

12:10 p.m.

Mr. R. S. Pearman

The Hon. D. V. S. Rabain presented corrections on the Budget Brief for Head 63, Parliamentary Registrar.

12:14 p.m.

The Hon. D. V. S. Rabain presented the Budget Brief on Head 98.

12:31p.m.

The Hon. D. V. S. Rabain moved that the House do now adjourn for lunch, which was agreed to.

The House adjourned for lunch.

2:01 p.m.

The House resumed in Committee of Supply.

Ms. L. C. Smith in the Chair.

2:01 p.m.

The Hon. D. V. S. Rabain continued with Head 98 and 101.

2:25 p.m.

Mr. J. C. Richardson

2:32 p.m.

The Hon. D. V. S. Rabain (PoO)

3:19 p.m.

The Hon. D. V. S. Rabain replied.

3:44 p.m.

The Hon. D. V. S. Rabain replied.

3:48 p.m.

The Hon. D. V. S. Rabain moved that Heads 02, 05, 56, 63, 85, 92, 98 and 101 be approved as printed, which was agreed to.

3:50 p.m.

The Hon. A. N. H. Lightbourne moved that the following Ministry of Home Affairs Heads be now taken under consideration, which was agreed to:-

- 89 Energy
- 93 Ministry of Home Affairs Headquarters
- 97 Land Title and Registration

The Hon. A. N. H. Lightbourne presented the Budget Brief on Head 93.

4:03 p.m.

Ms. R. D. L. Ming in the Chair.

6:03 p.m.

Ms. L. F. Foggo in the Chair.

6:23 p.m.

The Hon. M. M. Fahy

7:15 p.m.

The Hon. A. N. H. Lightbourne

7:42 p.m.

Ms. L. F. Foggo acknowledged the presence of the Attorney General and Minister of Justice, Senator the Hon. Kim R. Wilkerson in the Public Gallery.

7:50 p.m.

The Hon. A. N. H. Lightbourne moved that Heads 89, 93, and 97 be approved as printed, which was agreed to.

7:52 p.m.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt moved that Heads 01, 04, 75, 51, 61 and 49 be approved as printed, which was agreed to.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt moved that the Current Account Estimates, the Capital Development Estimates and the Capital Acquisitions Estimates be approved, which was agreed to.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt moved that the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the Financial Year 2026/2027 be approved, which was agreed to.

7:53 p.m.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt moved that the Estimates be reported to the House, which was agreed to.

The Committee rose.

The House resumed.

His Honour the Speaker in the Chair.

The Chairman reported the approval of the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for 2026/2027 as printed, which was agreed to.

7:54 p.m.

With the Governor's recommendation signified, The Hon. E. D. G. Burt introduced a Bill entitled "The Appropriation Act 2026" for its first reading, which was agreed to.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt moved that in accordance with the provisions of the Standing Orders 41 (12) and 42 the remaining stages of the bill entitled "The Appropriation Act 2026" be taken forthwith, which was agreed to.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt moved that the bill entitled "The Appropriation Act 2026" be now read the second time, which was agreed to.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt moved Clauses 1-6 inclusive, together with Schedules A, B and C, as printed, which was agreed to.

The Preamble was agreed to.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt moved that the Bill entitled "The Appropriation Act 2026" be now read a third time by its title only, which was agreed to.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt moved that the said bill do now pass, which was agreed to.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt moved that the following message be sent to the Senate, which was agreed to:

“To the Honourable President and Members of the Senate:

The House of Assembly has the honour to forward herewith the undernoted Bill for the concurrences of your House:

“The Appropriation Act 2026”

Copies of the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for 2026/2027 are also forwarded for the information of your House.”

7:57 p.m.

With the Governor’s recommendation signified, the Hon. W. L. Furbert moved that consideration be given to the draft Order entitled the “Government Authorities (Fees) Amendment Order 2026” proposed to be made by the Minister of Finance in exercise of the power conferred by section 4 (1) of the Government Authorities (Fees) Act 1971, which was agreed to.

The Hon. W. L. Furbert spoke on the draft Order.

8:00 p.m.

Mr. R. S. Pearman

8:01 p.m.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt

8:02 p.m.

The Hon. W. L. Furbert replied.

The Hon. W. L. Furbert moved that the said draft Order be approved and a suitable message be sent to His Excellency the Governor, which was agreed to.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt moved that Standing Order 14 be suspended to enable him to move that the Bill entitled the “Corporate Income Tax Agency Amendment Act 2026”, be read for the first time, which was agreed to.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt read for the first time by its title a Bill entitled the “Corporate Income Tax Agency Amendment Act 2026”.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt moved that Standing Order 14 be suspended to enable him to move that the Bill entitled the

“Economic Substance Amendment Act 2026”, be read for the first time, which was agreed to.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt read for the first time by its title a Bill entitled the “Economic Substance Amendment Act 2026”.

Item numbers 2, 4 and 5 on the Order Paper were carried over.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt moved that the House at its rising adjourn to Friday March 20th, 2026, which was agreed to.

The Hon. E. D. G. Burt moved that the House do now adjourn, which was agreed to.

Mr. D. V. Robinson

8:13 p.m.

House Adjourned