



MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

OF

The Honourable The Senate

The Senate met in the Senate Chamber, Parliament at the Parliament Buildings on Wednesday the 15th day of January, 2025, at 11.00 o'clock a.m.

PRESENT

His Honour the Most Honourable Senator R. R. Farley, FB, J.P., B.Sc., C.P.A., C.M.A. (*President*)

Senator the Hon. Ms. L. R. Cummins, B.Sc.,
M.Sc. (*Minister of Energy and Business
Development*) (*Leader of the Senate*)

Senator Dr. the Hon. S. M. Munro-Knight, Ph.D.
(*Minister in the Prime Minister's Office*)

Senator the Hon. C. J. Blackman, LL.B., LL.M.,
ACI Arb. (*Minister – Ministry of Economic
Affairs and Investment*)

Senator Dr. C. K. M. Haynes, M.B.B.S.

Senator J. A. King, B.S.S., J.P.

Senator Miss P. E. Parris, J.P.

Senator A. A. O. Boyce, B.Sc., M.Sc., LL.B.

Senator G. P. B. Nicholls, B.Sc. (Hons.), LL.B.
(Hons.), LL.M., MCI Arb.

Senator Rev. C. M. Morris, B.A. (Theology),
B.A. (Hist. & Sociology), Dip. Ed.,
M.A.

Senator the Hon. L. E. Nurse, F.C.A., F.C.C.A.
Senator Mr. C. A. Maynard, M.B.B.S., F.R.C.S.
(ENT)

Senator Ms. M. C. Taitt, Q.C., LL.B. (Hons.),
M.B.A.

Senator K. J. Boyce, LL.B. (Hons.), L.E.C.

Senator Dr. C. N. Drakes, B.Sc. (Econ. &
Mgmt), M.Phil Econ., Ph.D.

Senator Rev. Canon Dr. J. A. Rogers, B.Sc.,
B.A. (Hons.), M.Phil., Ph.D.

Senator A. W. Mallalieu, C.P.A., F.R.I.C.S.

Senator R. O. Walters, M.B.A.

Senator A. R. Worrell, J.P., B.A.(Hons.)

ABSENT

Her Honour Senator the Most Honourable Ms. H. E. Thompson, FB, LL.B., L.E.C., M.B.A. (Dist.), LL.M. (*Deputy President*) and Senator the Most Honourable Mr. J. X. Walcott, FB, M.B.B.S., F.R.C.S. (Edin.), J.P. (*Senior Minister*) (*Minister of Health and Wellness*).

PRAYERS

Prayers were led by Rev. Father Wayne Kirton.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY HIS HONOUR THE PRESIDENT

Mr. President spoke and welcomed the Honourable Members back to the Senate Chamber and he wish them and their families a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. He also thanked them for their continuous service to our Country.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on Friday, 29th November, 2024 were confirmed on the motion of Senator the Hon. Ms. L. R. Cummins.

The Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 18th December, 2024 were deferred on the motion of Senator the Hon. Ms. L. R. Cummins.

EXCUSES

Mr. President announced that he was in receipt of an excuse for absence from Senator R. O. Walters. He also announced that he was in receipt of an excuse for lateness from Senator the Most Honourable Mr. J. X. Walcott.

MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OF THE SENATE

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

On the motion of Senator the Hon. Ms. L. R. Cummins Standing Order 45 (2) was suspended for the remainder of the Sitting.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

On the motion of Senator the Hon. Ms. L. R. Cummins the following Bills were read a first time:-

1. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill, 2025; and
2. The Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

PUBLIC BUSINESS

ORDER NO. 6

On the Order being called for Senator the Hon. Ms. L. R. Cummins to move the passing of the Resolution, the Hon. Member sought and obtained leave to introduce the Resolution together with Orders No. 8 and No. 9 in a cognate debate.

Mr. President spoke.

Senator the Hon. Ms. L. R. Cummins spoke on the following Resolution:

WHEREAS the Government of Barbados has signalled its intention to improve the lives of Persons with Disabilities and to protect their rights and freedoms through the creation of a comprehensive and inclusive national policy;

AND WHEREAS the policy was significantly informed by the 2023 Report of the National Advisory Committee to Guide the Establishment of a Commission for Improving the Lives of Persons with Disabilities;

AND WHEREAS the Commission was established under the chairmanship of Mr. Edmund Hinkson, S.C., M.P. to highlight problems faced by the disabled community with a view to developing practical solutions to improve the lives of persons with disabilities;

AND WHEREAS the report presented a detailed synopsis of the issues and challenges faced by persons with disabilities and a comprehensive set of recommendations for the improvement in their lives which are reflected in the policy;

AND WHEREAS the policy aims to foster greater inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in all areas of national life and to eliminate the stigma and discrimination that they face on a daily basis;

AND WHEREAS the policy recognises the significant role that Persons with Disabilities can play in national development if they are given more opportunities to contribute in various ways according to the nature of their disability;

AND WHEREAS the Government has engaged in extensive consultations with stakeholders within the social policy space on the National Policy for Improving the Lives of Persons with Disabilities and the 2023 Report of the National Advisory Committee to Guide the Establishment of a Commission for Improving the Lives of Persons with Disabilities;

AND WHEREAS the Cabinet at its meeting held September 21, 2023 approved the National Policy for Improving the Lives of Persons with Disabilities and noted the 2023 Report of the National Advisory Committee to Guide the Establishment of a Commission for Improving the Lives of Persons with Disabilities at its meeting held on April 19, 2024;

AND WHEREAS the National Policy for Improving the Lives of Persons with Disabilities and the 2023 Report of the National Advisory Committee to Guide the Establishment of a Commission for Improving the Lives of Persons with Disabilities have been laid in Parliament to foster debate on these documents;

AND WHEREAS the National Policy recognizes the following thematic areas which are fundamental to advancing the full rights and freedoms of Persons with Disabilities:

- (i) Accessibility;
- (ii) Adequate standard of living and social protection;
- (iii) Awareness building;
- (iv) Education, training and lifelong learning;
- (v) Employment, work and economic participation;
- (vi) Health, habitation and rehabilitation;
- (vii) Legal recognition and access to justice;
- (viii) Participation in society;
- (ix) Protection in disasters and emergencies;
- (x) Protection of right to life, integrity, freedoms and liberties;
- (xi) Regional and international cooperation;
- (xii) Respect for privacy, home and family life;
- (xiii) Statistics and data collection on disabilities; and
- (xiv) Women and children with disabilities.

BE IT RESOLVED therefore that Parliament approve the National Policy for Improving the Lives of Persons with Disabilities and the 2023 National Report of the National Advisory Committee to Guide the Establishment of a Commission for Improving the Lives of Persons with Disabilities.

APPROVED by the House of Assembly this 5th day of November, 2024,

and moved that the Resolution be passed.

**MOTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OR SITTINGS OF THE
SENATE AND MOVED BY A MINISTER (recommitted)**

On the motion of Senator the Hon. Ms. L. R. Cummins Standing Order 32A (2) was suspended on behalf of Senator A. A. O. Boyce.

Mr. President spoke.

The motion was passed.

Senator A. A. O. Boyce spoke.

Senator A. R. Worrell spoke.

SUSPENSION

On the motion of Senator the Hon. Ms. L. R. Cummins the Sitting was suspended until 3.15 p.m.
At 2.18 p.m. Mr. President suspended the Sitting.

RESUMPTION

On resumption Mr. President in the Chair.

ORDER NO. 6 (resumed)

Senator A. W. Mallalieu spoke.

Senator Miss P. E. Parris spoke.

Senator Rev. Canon Dr. J. A. Rogers spoke.

Senator the Hon. C. J. Blackman spoke.

Senator Ms. M. C. Taitt spoke.

Senator Rev. C. M. Morris spoke.

Senator Mr. C. A. Maynard spoke.

Senator Dr. C. K. M. Haynes spoke.

Senator Dr. the Hon. S. M. Munro-Knight spoke.

Senator G. P. B. Nicholls began to speak and gave away.

Senator A. W. Mallalieu spoke on a point of elucidation.

Senator G. P. B. Nicholls concluded his speech.

Senator K. J. Boyce spoke.

Senator the Hon. Ms. L. R. Cummins spoke in reply.

The Resolution was passed.

MESSAGES FROM HER EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT (recommitted)

Mr. President read the following:

**STATE HOUSE
BARBADOS**

MESSAGE No. /2025

***HER EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT
TO
THE HONOURABLE THE SENATE***

Her Excellency the President wishes to inform The Honourable The Senate that she will be absent from the country on Friday, 17th January, 2025 on vacation leave.

Her Excellency further wishes to inform The Honourable The Senate that, in accordance with the provisions of Section 33 of the Constitution, the Very Reverend Dr. Jeffrey Douglas Gibson will perform the functions of the Office of President during Her Excellency's absence.


PRESIDENT

**STATE HOUSE
BARBADOS.**

15th January, 2025

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS (recommitted)

Senator the Hon. Ms. L. R. Cummins by command laid the following:-

1. Loan Contract No. 5908/OC-BA between the Government of Barbados and the Inter-American Development Bank: Barbados Climate Resilient South Coast Water Reclamation Project, December 12, 2024.

MOTIONS RELATING TO THE SITTING OF THE SENATE

On the motion of Senator the Hon. Ms. L. R. Cummins, Senator Rev. Canon Dr. J. A. Rogers was appointed temporary Deputy President for the remainder of the Sitting.

PUBLIC BUSINESS (recommitted)

ORDER NO. 9

ROAD TRAFFIC (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025

On the Order being called for Senator the Hon. Ms. L. R. Cummins to move the second reading of the Bill entitled an Act to amend the Road Traffic Act, Cap. 295 to increase the fines imposed under section 88A of the Act relating to parking for the disabled,

the Hon. Member spoke and moved that the Bill be read a second time.

The motion was passed.

On the motion of Senator the Hon. Ms. L. R. Cummins the Honourable the Senate resolved itself into Committee on the Bill, Senator Rev. Canon Dr. J. A. Rogers in the Chair.

Clauses 1 to 2 were called on the separate motion of Senator the Hon. Ms. L. R. Cummins.

On the motion of Senator the Hon. Ms. L. R. Cummins the Chairman of Committees reported the passing of the Bill in Committee to the President who resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motion of Senator the Hon. Ms. L. R. Cummins the Bill was read a third time passed and the title read and agreed to.

ORDER NO. 8

RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES BILL, 2025

On the Order being called for Senator the Hon. Ms. L. R. Cummins to move the second reading of the Bill entitled an Act to provide certain rights to persons living with disabilities, for the promotion and protection of full equal enjoyment of rights, for the elimination of discrimination on the basis of disability, for the welfare and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities and to provide for related matters,

the Hon. Member spoke and moved that the Bill be read a second time.

The motion was passed.

On the motion of Senator the Hon. Ms. L. R. Cummins the Honourable the Senate resolved itself into Committee on the Bill, Senator Rev. Canon Dr. J. A. Rogers in the Chair.

Part 1 (Clauses 1, 2 (as amended) to 4) was called and passed on the motion of Senator the Hon. Ms. L. R. Cummins.

Part 2 (Clauses 5 to 12) was called and passed on the motion of Senator the Hon. Ms. L. R. Cummins.

Part 3 (Clauses 13 (as amended) to 20) was called and passed on the motion of Senator the Hon. Ms. L. R. Cummins.

Part 4 (Clauses 21 to 26), Part 5 (Clauses 27 to 34), Part 6 (Clauses 35 to 46), Part 7 (Clauses 47 to 52), Part 8 (Clauses 53 to 55), Part 9 (Clauses 56 to 61), Part 10 (Clauses 62 to 66), Part 11 (Clause 67), Part 12 (Clauses 68 to 72), Part 13 (Clauses 73 to 75), Part 14 (Clauses 76-82), Part 15 (Clauses 83-84), Part 16 (Clauses 85-91) and the Schedule were called and passed on the motion of Senator the Hon. Ms. L. R. Cummins.

On the motion of Senator the Hon. Ms. L. R. Cummins the Chairman of Committees reported the passing of the Bill in Committee to the President who resumed the Chair and reported accordingly.

On the separate motion of Senator the Hon. Ms. L. R. Cummins the Bill was read a third time and passed and the title read and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

On the motion of Senator the Hon. Ms. L. R. Cummins the Senate was adjourned *sine die*.
Mr. President spoke.

At. 7.32 p.m. Mr. President adjourned the Sitting.

BEVERLEY S. GIBBONS, J.P.
Deputy Clerk of Parliament.

The Minutes were certified correct and confirmed the _____ day of _____
, 2025.

President.

SENATE CHAMBERS
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS
BRIDGETOWN.

SENATE

FIRST SESSION OF 2022 – 2027

MINUTES

Wednesday, 15th January, 2025.