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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hamilton, Bermuda, April 19th, 2012. Mr. George Hutchings, Chairman of the Association of Bermuda International Companies, today welcomed Government's development and implementation of a new work permit card product. In May, the Ministries of Economy Trade and Industry and National Security will begin to replace the paper work permit with a plastic card. "The card will provide our members with an easy alternative for quicker processing through immigration at the airport as well as eliminating the need to preserve a paper document. We appreciate that the cards will be initially piloted for those on periodic work permits and we hope they can be rolled out to the broader community as quickly as possible. We look forward to the Ministries extending this user friendly tool to not only all work permit holders but also to spouses of work permit holders, spouses of Bermudians and/or any other person who has a close connection to Bermudians or work permit holders and requires documentary evidence of that connection. This is an excellent example of a welcome change that will make the Island more business friendly, efficient, and reduce bureaucracy. We thank the Government for listening to the business organizations, and commend Minister Perinchief and Minister Minors for implementing this change."