

STATES OF JERSEY



DRAFT STATES OF JERSEY (AMENDMENT No. 5) LAW 200 (P.183/2007): AMENDMENTS (P.183/2007 AMD.)– COMMENTS

**Presented to the States on 11th January 2007
by the Privileges and Procedures Committee**

STATES GREFFE

COMMENTS

The Privileges and Procedures Committee does not support this amendment to keep 12 Senators instead of reducing in 2 stages to 8 as proposed by the Committee.

PPC notes that the amendment does not fundamentally undermine the Committee's proposed new 4 year electoral cycle for the States but the Committee is concerned about the proposal to elect 12 Senators on a single day from 2016. PPC has stated on many occasions that electing 12 Senators on the same ballot paper would almost certainly lead to a degree of confusion for the electorate. The likely outcome of the system would be that electors might vote for considerably less than 12 candidates and the persons elected in 11th or 12th place could have a very low number of votes.

Although elections in 2008 and 2011 would still take place for only 6 Senators under Deputy Troy's amendment, PPC believes it would not be responsible to agree reform of this nature even though the first election for 12 Senators is some 8½ years away. The proposal simply opens up the possibility of further reform in the coming years rather than agreeing a definite way forward for the long term at this stage. PPC has proposed an orderly reduction in the number of Senators in 2 stages to achieve a total of 8 Senators by 2016 and believes that this is the most appropriate way to proceed.