

CONSTITUTION AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE STATES: REFERENDUM (P.183/2002) - COMMENTS

**Presented to the States on 5th November 2002
by the Special Committee on the Composition and Election of the States Assembly**



STATES OF JERSEY

STATES GREFFE

150

2002

P.183 Com.

Price code: A

Comment

The Special Committee on the Composition and Election of the States Assembly has already commented as follows on the matter of a referendum under paragraph 12.2 of its report and proposition, P.186/2002- "Machinery of Government: Composition and Election of the States Assembly", lodged 'au Greffe' on 8th October 2002 -

The issue of a referendum on the future composition of the States Assembly was raised on several occasions during the Committee's deliberations, and, in fact, was also raised regularly at previous Parish Meetings. The Committee considered the possibility of requesting the States to put its package of recommendations to the electorate for endorsement in the form of a referendum. However, it was agreed that as it was recommending only relatively minor changes to the current composition and election procedures rather than any major alterations, particularly with regard to the position of Connétables and the Island-wide mandate, a referendum was not appropriate at the current time.*

* These meetings were organised at the time by the Policy and Resources Committee in connexion with P.179/2001, which was later withdrawn.

The Special Committee recently convened a further meeting at which it received Senator P.V.F. Le Claire in order to discuss his report and proposition, P.183/2002 - "Constitution and membership of the States: Referendum", lodged au Greffe on 8th October 2002.

The Special Committee, having considered the proposals contained in the report and proposition of Senator Le Claire, is of the view that part (a) of the Senator's proposition has no impact on P.186/2002, and further remains of the opinion that its own proposals regarding the reduction in the number of Senators does not merit a referendum as proposed under part (b) of Senator Le Claire's proposition.