

STATES OF JERSEY



DRAFT REFERENDUM (COMPOSITION OF THE STATES ASSEMBLY) (JERSEY) ACT 201- (P.118/2014): AMENDMENT (P.118/2014 Amd.) – AMENDMENT (P.118/2014 Amd.Amd.) – COMMENTS

**Presented to the States on 14th July 2014
by the Privileges and Procedures Committee**

STATES GREFFE

COMMENTS

The Committee asks members to reject Senator L.J. Farnham's amendment to the amendment of the Deputy of St. John.

The Senator's question is multi-faceted. Whatever the results, they would not provide a clear picture of the way forward for the composition and election of the States Assembly. If the loss of the automatic right of the Connétables to sit in the States was favoured by the Public, there would need to be further discussions to establish whether the seats of the Connétables should be filled by another type of member, or whether they should fall away. The same applies should the Public favour the removal of Senators and the Island-wide mandate.

The Committee hopes that the single referendum question being brought forward in its draft Act will give a clear and straightforward result on whether the Clothier recommendations should be implemented.

The Committee's question has been subject to testing by a series of focus groups for its level of comprehension and to ensure that it is not considered to be leading. The Committee would be interested to know whether the Senator's question had been tested for bias and comprehension by prospective voters.

When the Clothier recommendations were partially implemented with the introduction of Ministerial Government, there were no requisite changes made to the composition and election of the States Assembly. The Committee believes that the Public should have the opportunity to vote on the remainder of the Clothier reforms as a whole, and our Referendum Act offers this opportunity.

Statement under Standing Order 37A [Presentation of comment relating to a proposition]

The Committee's meeting to discuss the amendment had to be re-scheduled because of the additional States continuation days, and the Committee wishes to apologise for submitting late comments.