

**DRAFT MARRIAGE AND CIVIL STATUS (JERSEY) LAW 200- (P.89/2001): AMENDMENTS**

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**Lodged au Greffe on 10th July 2001  
by the Tourism Committee**

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**STATES OF JERSEY**

**STATES GREFFE**

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## **REPORT**

The Tourism Committee is of the opinion that the attached amendments to the Draft Marriage and Civil Status (Jersey) Law 200- should be fully debated by members of the States of Jersey.

The Committee is of the opinion that, if Jersey is to compete in the worldwide wedding tourism market, it must offer couples the opportunity to get married at a location of their choosing and to have the freedom to select music or readings of their choice.

Article 18 of the Draft Marriage and Civil Status (Jersey) Law 200- allows marriages to take place in “approved premises”, and it is felt that this provision should be extended to enable marriages to take place at locations approved by the Connétable of the Parish in which the location is situated.

The draft Law allows for the Etat Civil Committee to establish by Order a scheme for the approval of premises and, if the amendments are agreed, of locations, for a specified marriage and for a specified time and this will ensure the solemnity and dignity of each marriage.

Some 30,000 couples get married overseas each year at destinations that offer a greater freedom of choice in location and style of wedding.

Since 1996, when changes to the Loi (1842) sur l’Etat Civil made it much easier for couples to get married in Jersey, some 700 couples have been married in the Island, either at the Registry Office or at a non-Anglican church. It is anticipated that this number will increase considerably if the suggested amendments to the Draft Marriage and Civil Status (Jersey) Law 200- are approved.

### **Financial/manpower statement**

It is anticipated that the attached amendments to the Draft Marriage and Civil Status (Jersey) Law 200- will have no impact on the financial or manpower resources of the States.

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(1) PAGE 21, ARTICLE 1(1) -

(a) *for the definition “approved premises” substitute the following definition -*

“ ‘approved location’ shall be construed in accordance with Article 18(1);”;

(b) *after the definition “illegitimate child” insert the following definition -*

“ ‘location’ includes premises;”.

(2) PAGE 32, ARTICLE 11(4) -

*for the words “on any approved premises” substitute the words “at any approved location”.*

(3) PAGES 38-40, ARTICLE 18 -

(a) *for the heading to the Article substitute the heading “**Approved locations**”;*

(b) *in paragraph (1) -*

(i) *for the words “approved premises” substitute the words “approved locations”,*

(ii) *in sub-paragraph (a), for the words “the premises approved” substitute the words “the location approved” and for the words “the premises are” substitute the words “the location is”,*

(iii) *in sub-paragraph (b), in clause (i), for the word “premises” where it first appears substitute the words “a location” and for the words “premises are” substitute the words “location is”,*

(iv) *in sub-paragraph (b), in clause (ii), insert after the words “the premises” the words “and any other location”;*

(c) *in paragraph (2) and in paragraph (3)(a), (c), (f) and (k) for the word “premises” substitute the word “locations”,*

*and revise the cross-heading preceding the Article accordingly.*

(4) PAGES 40-41, ARTICLE 19 -

*in paragraphs (1) and (5)(b) for the words “on approved premises” in each place where they occur substitute the words “at approved locations”.*

(5) PAGES 41-42, ARTICLE 20 -

(a) *in the heading to the Article for the words “**on approved premises**” substitute the words “**at an approved location**”;*

(b) *in paragraph (1), for the words “on approved premises” substitute the words “at an approved location” and for the words “on those premises” substitute the words “at that location”;*

(c) *in paragraphs (2), (3), (4), (5) and (6) for the words “on approved premises” substitute the words “at an approved location”;*

(d) *in paragraph (5) omit the words “and no music or reading that would ordinarily form part of a religious service”;*

(e) *in paragraph (6) for the words “on the premises provided for him, for the use of those premises” substitute the words “on the premises or at any other location provided for him, for the use of those premises or that location”;*

- (f) *in paragraph (7) for the words “on any approved premises” substitute the words “at any approved location”.*
- (6) PAGE 43, ARTICLE 21(7) -  
*for the words “approved premises” substitute the words “an approved location”.*
- (7) PAGE 45, ARTICLE 24 -
- (a) *in paragraph (d) omit the words “, approved premises” and at the end of the paragraph add the words “or at any location other than the approved location specified in the notice of marriage and licence”;*
- (b) *in paragraph (e) for the words “on approved premises, on any premises that are not approved premises” substitute the words “at an approved location, at any location that is not an approved location”;*
- (c) *in paragraph (g) for the words “on approved premises” substitute the words “at an approved location”.*
- (8) PAGE 57, ARTICLE 44 -
- (a) *in the heading to the Article for the word “Premises” substitute the words “Office and locations”;*
- (b) *at the beginning of the Article insert the paragraph number “(1)”;*
- (c) *after the paragraph (1) add the following paragraph -*  
  

“(2) The States may provide and maintain for the Superintendent Registrar, in any part of the Island, one or more locations where marriages may be solemnized.”.
- (9) PAGE 78, ARTICLE 76 -
- (a) *in paragraph (6)(b) for the words “approved premises” substitute the words “approved location”;*
- (b) *in paragraph (8) for the words “on approved premises” substitute the words “at an approved location”.*

## TOURISM COMMITTEE