

STATES OF JERSEY



MACHINERY OF GOVERNMENT: ESTABLISHMENT OF MINISTERIAL BOARDS AND REVISED SYSTEM OF SCRUTINY (P.120/2010) – COMMENTS

**Presented to the States on 22nd September 2010
by the Privileges and Procedures Committee**

STATES GREFFE

COMMENTS

The Privileges and Procedures Committee (PPC) supports the proposition of Senator A. Breckon. As indicated in his report, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of PPC were part of a working party that reviewed the Senator's original proposals (P.70/2010) and developed them into this revised proposition.

The Committee is aware that some concern has been expressed regarding the effectiveness of the proposed Ministerial Boards under the revised system. PPC believes that the Boards can be made to function effectively provided that Ministers are willing to engage in a meaningful and constructive way with all Board members. PPC also believes that, in addition to being a forum for discussion and consultation, Boards can provide members with the opportunity to participate in executive decision-making due to the provision of delegated powers from Ministers to Board members. This approach has been seen to be effective in the Isle of Man, and the Committee is content that, if adopted, it will ensure greater political engagement for all members and overcome the concerns of many members that the present system is not sufficiently inclusive.

Senator Breckon's proposition is the culmination of a series of projects which have sought to examine the function of the machinery of government in Jersey. PPC wishes to acknowledge the work which has been carried out by members and officers in this regard in the past year. The Committee is grateful to the members of the States Business Organisation Sub-Group, comprising the Vice-Chairman of PPC, the Deputy of St. Peter and Deputies J.B. Fox and M.R. Higgins of St. Helier, which was established by PPC and made the initial recommendation that a more wide-ranging review should be carried out. The Committee is also grateful to Deputy J.B. Fox and the Connétable of St. Peter, who addressed the Committee with regard to the function of ministerial government in the Isle of Man following research that they had undertaken during a regional Commonwealth Parliamentary Association conference in that island. PPC also wishes to place on record its thanks to the officers of the States Greffe and the Chief Minister's Department who supported the working party in its review of Senator Breckon's original proposition (P.70/2010).