

# **STATES OF JERSEY**



## **MEETINGS OF THE STATES IN 2006**

---

**Lodged au Greffe on 20th September 2005  
by the Privileges and Procedures Committee**

---

**STATES GREFFE**

## PROPOSITION

**THE STATES are asked to decide whether they are of opinion –**

to agree to suspend Standing Orders 4(1) and 5(1C) as necessary, and –

- (a) to agree that the Assembly as reconstituted after the elections for Senator and Deputy should meet –
  - (i) on Monday 5th December 2005 for the purpose of electing a Chief Minister designate;
  - (ii) on Thursday 8th December 2005 for the purpose of electing the Chairman of the Privileges and Procedures Committee, Ministers, the Chairmen of the Public Accounts Committee and the Chairmen of the Scrutiny Panels; and
  - (iii) on Tuesday 13th December 2005 for the purpose of electing the members of the Privileges and Procedures and Public Accounts Committees, and the members of the Scrutiny Panels;
  
- (b) that in the year 2006 the States should meet on the days listed in Column 1 in the table below, with the meeting to continue on the day shown in Column 2, and if necessary the day in Column 3, if consideration of the public business set down for the meeting cannot be completed on the first day and second day –

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Tuesday 17th January	Wednesday 18th January	Tuesday 24th January
Tuesday 31st January	Wednesday 1st February	Tuesday 7th February
Tuesday 14th February	Wednesday 15th February	Tuesday 21st February
Tuesday 28th February	Wednesday 1st March	Tuesday 7th March
Tuesday 14th March	Wednesday 15th March	Tuesday 21st March
Tuesday 28th March	Wednesday 29th March	Tuesday 4th April
Tuesday 11th April	Wednesday 12th April	
Tuesday 25th April	Wednesday 26th April	Tuesday 2nd May
Tuesday 9th May (Liberation Day)		
Tuesday 16th May	Wednesday 17th May	
Tuesday 23rd May	Wednesday 24th May	Tuesday 30th May
Tuesday 6th June	Wednesday 7th June	Tuesday 13th June
Tuesday 20th June	Wednesday 21st June	Tuesday 27th June
Tuesday 4th July	Wednesday 5th July	Tuesday 11th July

Tuesday 18th July	Wednesday 19th July	Thursday 20th July
Tuesday 12th September	Wednesday 13th September	Tuesday 19th September
Tuesday 26th September	Wednesday 27th September	Tuesday 3rd October
Tuesday 10th October	Wednesday 11th October	Tuesday 17th October
Tuesday 24th October	Wednesday 25th October	Tuesday 31st October
Tuesday 7th November	Wednesday 8th November	Tuesday 14th November
Tuesday 21st November	Wednesday 22nd November	Tuesday 28th November
Tuesday 5th December	Wednesday 6th December	Tuesday 12th December

## PRIVILEGES AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

## REPORT

Paragraph (a) of the proposition refers to the proposed first 3 meetings of the new States. It is fully compatible with the provisions contained within the new draft Standing Orders of the States of Jersey (P.162/2005 refers), which in turn follow previous decisions taken by the Assembly. As can be seen the selection of the Chief Minister will take place on the day that new members are sworn in (which is, of course, already 12 days after the Deputies' elections) as it is essential that the appointment process for the new Council of Ministers starts as soon as possible to avoid any period with no identifiable 'government' in the Island. When reviewing paragraph (a), members may wish to note that the 2 additional members of the Chairmen's Committee who are not ex officio members (i.e. the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee and the Chairmen of the 4 Scrutiny Panels) will be appointed on Tuesday 17th January 2006. In arriving at this recommendation, the Committee took account of both the volume of business to be conducted before the Christmas break and the implications of delaying the constitution of the Chairmen's Committee. It concluded, on balance, that the operation of the Scrutiny function would not be affected. Indeed, nothing would prevent individual Scrutiny Panels from considering and finalizing their initial draft programmes of work prior to 17th January 2006.

In considering the matter of the dates for States meetings in 2006 the Privileges and Procedures Committee reflected upon the success of the arrangements put in place for the current year following the adoption of P.181/2004. It concluded that the current system, proposed originally by Deputy M.F. Dubras, had proved to be effective in that it had allowed Committees, individual members and Departments to plan with a greater degree of certainty. Certainly the Committee perceives that a majority of members have been broadly supportive of the arrangements.

Of course, 2006 will bring with it a period of unprecedented change with the introduction of the ministerial system of government and the Committee acknowledges that the demands of the new system may ultimately require that the system of meeting dates be changed in the medium to longer term. For example, the Privileges and Procedures Committee acknowledges that additional meeting days on a Thursday tend to be frowned upon under the existing system as it has been a preferred meeting day for a number of Committees. Although the dates on and the frequency with which the future Council of Ministers will meet has yet to be finalized, it may well be the case that this issue becomes less significant as the ministerial system develops. In the short term, however, the Committee considers that it would be appropriate to continue with an established, successful system of meeting and continuation days until such time as it becomes clear that the ministerial system of government would function more efficiently with an alternative arrangement.

There are no additional financial and manpower implications arising from this proposition.