

**SMOKE DETECTORS FOR SENIOR  
CITIZENS: FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

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**Lodged au Greffe on 16th June 1998  
by Deputy Alan Breckon of St. Saviour**

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**STATES OF JERSEY**

**STATES GREFFE**

175

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## **PROPOSITION**

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

- (a) to agree that a smoke detector should be installed in each household solely occupied by senior citizens;
- (b) to request the Defence Committee to authorise the Chief Fire Officer to make available Fire Service personnel to undertake the installation of the smoke detectors in the households described in (a) above;
- (c) to request the Finance and Economics Committee to make available the sum of up to £100,000 to the Defence Committee to meet the cost of the purchase and installation of the smoke alarms.

**DEPUTY A. BRECKON OF ST. SAVIOUR**

## REPORT

During 1997 I received a leaflet of the Guernsey Fire Brigade Appeal offering to ‘supply and fit’ - **free of charge** - smoke alarms for persons over the age of 60 who did not have one.

On Page 43 of the Jersey Census 1996 it is stated -

‘‘2,937 households containing pensioners only were not equipped with smoke detectors, of which 1,703 consisted of a single pensioner living alone.’’

### Cost

A supplier has been contacted to provide smoke detectors at cost price. A substantial discount can be obtained on a quality alarm provided with a sealed battery unit guaranteed for ten years' service. To ensure that all senior citizens who apply will receive a smoke detector, a sum of £100,000 to be made available to the States of Jersey Fire Service to cover the project costs.

The States of Jersey Fire Service is, I believe, the appropriate authority to install the detectors, as it has the knowledge, and the personnel are identifiable to senior citizens. During Fire Safety Week (28th September - 3rd October 1998) it is proposed, subject to funds being available, to promote this to the community.

**NOTE:** The Finance and Economics Committee is unable to support the provision of additional funds for this initiative as it believes that there must be financial discipline across the States. The Committee is also very concerned at the level of requests currently being submitted for General Reserve funding which is already fully committed.

The Committee supports, in principle, the proposal but believes that there is considerable merit in the initiative being developed as a community-led project with the possibility of attracting sponsorship from the general public, the private sector or charitable organisations for the project.

Alternatively, as this is an issue which clearly falls under the remit of the Defence Committee, that Committee should be requested to consider whether the project is of sufficient importance and, if so, it should reprioritise its existing budget to release the necessary funds.

The Finance and Economics Committee is unable to support this and other *ad hoc* requests outside the normal budget setting process.