

PRIVILEGES AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

(54th Meeting)

27th June 2005PART A

All members were present, with the exception of Senator P.V.F. Le Claire and Deputy J-A. Bridge.

Deputy R.G. Le Hérissier
 Connétable D.F. Gray
 Deputy P.N. Troy
 Deputy C.J. Scott Warren
 Deputy J.A. Bernstein

In attendance -

M.N. de la Haye, Greffier of the States
 I. Clarkson, Committee Clerk

Note: The Minutes of this meeting comprise Part A only.

Standing Orders
 of the States of
 Jersey: revision.
 1240/4(171)

Clerk
 G.O.S.
 L.D.

A1. The Committee, with reference to its Act No. A1 of 26th May 2005, recalled that it had approved a further series of amendments to the new draft Standing Orders of the States of Jersey.

The Committee received a revised draft of the new Standing Orders of the States of Jersey, together with an accompanying report prepared by the Greffier of the States. It was clarified that the revised draft contained all the modifications requested by the Committee at its meetings on 19th and 26th May 2005.

The Committee considered that the new draft Standing Orders contained a balanced, efficient and viable set of internal rules for the operation of the States Assembly. In producing the draft, the Committee had followed existing States' decisions concerned with the Machinery of Government Reform. It nevertheless acknowledged that a number of significant additions and key changes were proposed in the draft including, but not exclusive to, the following –

- (a) revised procedures for lodging propositions;
- (b) revised minimum lodging periods and a requirement for every proposition to be given a provisional debate date when lodged;
- (c) a new 30 minute period of questions without notice to Ministers at each scheduled meeting, which would be in addition to the existing oral question period with notice;
- (d) provision of a new question period that would follow a ministerial statement;
- (e) new procedures for considering legislation with, in particular, the option

to refer the draft to a scrutiny panel;

- (f) the ability to interrupt debates so that a matter could be referred to scrutiny;
- (g) new methods for fixing debate dates;
- (h) procedures on the appointment of the Chief Minister and Ministers
- (i) new procedures on the appointment and terms of reference of the future Privileges and Procedures Committee, the Public Accounts Committee and the scrutiny panels;
- (j) terms of reference for the future Chairmen's Committee;
- (k) the introduction of a 'Hansard' record of the proceedings of the States as required by the new States of Jersey Law 2005;
- (l) simplified procedures on petitions;
- (m) incorporation of the draft Code of Conduct into Standing Orders; and,
- (n) revised rules concerning the Register of Members' Interests.

Accordingly the Committee agreed that all members of the Assembly should be invited to review and comment on the draft. The Committee further agreed that it should aim to consider any responses received within one month, in order that the draft new Standing Orders could be amended (if necessary), approved and lodged 'au Greffe' in late July 2005. In turn, a debate would be requested for 13th September 2005, so as to ensure that the new Standing Orders were in place for the commencement of ministerial government.

The Greffier of the States was requested to take the necessary action.