

# STATES OF JERSEY



## **DRAFT AMENDMENT (No. 7) OF THE STANDING ORDERS OF THE STATES OF JERSEY (P.80/2007): COMMENTS**

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**Presented to the States on 29th June 2007  
by the Privileges and Procedures Committee**

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**STATES GREFFE**

## COMMENTS

The Privileges and Procedures Committee does not support this draft amendment to Standing Orders.

The Committee appreciates that it can be frustrating for the proposer of an item when the Assembly votes to curtail the debate and 'move to the next item'. The procedure is nevertheless, by definition, a summary one which can be used when a majority of members in the Assembly consider that, for whatever reason, it is not appropriate for the debate to continue any longer. Allowing the proposer of the original proposition to speak before the vote could take some time and undermine the whole purpose of Standing Order 85 which is to allow the Assembly to bring a debate to an immediate end. The Committee would also point out that if the amendment is adopted it could enable the proposer of a proposition to speak 3 times in a debate as, if the proposal to move to the next item is rejected, he or she will still have the normal opportunity to sum up at the end of the main debate.

The Privileges and Procedures Committee believes that Standing Order 85 already contains sufficient safeguard, namely that the presiding officer cannot allow the proposal if it appears to him or her that it is an abuse of the procedure of the States or an infringement of the rights of a minority. PPC considers that the Bailiff and others who preside in the Assembly exercise this power carefully and thereby safeguard the rights of private members and others.

The Privileges and Procedures Committee urges members to reject this draft amendment. If members have serious concerns about Standing Order 85 the Committee believes it would be more appropriate for those members to bring an amendment to Standing Orders to remove the procedure altogether rather than trying to amend it in the manner suggested by Deputy Southern.