STATES OF JERSEY

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BENEFITS PAID BY THE HOUSING AND EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL SECURITY COMMITTEES: PROTECTION (P.116/2003) – COMMENTS

Presented to the States on 18th November 2003 by the Finance and Economics Committee

STATES GREFFE

COMMENTS

The Finance and Economics Committee cannot support the Report and Proposition of Deputy Southern.

The Finance and Economics Committee is committed to targeting the limited resources of the States to their best use and to those in real need. The Report and Proposition, if adopted, will prevent any Committee or States Member from bringing proposals to reduce current levels of the many benefit payments that exist under the respective schemes, until January 2007 or a Low Income Support Strategy is introduced.

The Proposition, if approved, will also prevent the re-allocation of funds available to the Employment and Social Security Committee in order to benefit those in most need.

This blanket restriction cannot be conducive to flexible, efficient and appropriately targeted support.

The Finance and Economics Committee believes that the annual Fundamental Spending Review process is the appropriate place to prioritise all of the States' services and to identify savings and growth within the balance of this methodology.