

STATES OF JERSEY



DRAFT PUBLIC ELECTIONS (AMENDMENT No. 4) (JERSEY) LAW 201- (P.14/2011): AMENDMENT

**Lodged au Greffe on 1st March 2011
by Deputy G.P. Southern of St. Helier**

STATES GREFFE

PAGE 21, NEW ARTICLE –

After Article 2 insert the following Article and renumber the remaining Articles accordingly –

“3 Article 5 amended

In Article 5(1)(c) of the principal Law –

- (a) in clause (i) for the words ‘2 years’ there shall be substituted the words ‘12 months’;
- (b) in clause (ii) for the words ‘5 years’ there shall be substituted the words ‘3 years’.”.

DEPUTY G.P. SOUTHERN OF ST. HELIER

REPORT

Length of residence

The purpose of this amendment to Article 5 is simply to reduce the length of residence required of persons before they are eligible to register to vote. It is my fourth attempt to reduce this period. It is a move to improve the inclusive nature of our community by allowing newcomers to the Island to participate in our democracy with minimum delay. The move is firmly anchored in that fundamental building block of democracy since the founding of the United States of America that there should be “no taxation without representation”. Under our system of ITIS, all those who come to work on the Island are now charged tax under ITIS from day one. I believe that it is wrong to deny those who have to contribute to States tax revenue without giving them some electoral say in how their tax is spent. A reduction in length of residence for election purposes has not been put before the Assembly since 2008. I believe there may be a level of support for a relatively moderate reduction in the timescale.

Financial and manpower implications

There are no significant financial or manpower consequences arising from these amendments.

Re-issue Note

This publication is re-issued because the first version inadvertently referred to 18 months and not 12 months in the amendment.