

STATES OF JERSEY



ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ELECTED SPEAKER (P.47/2019): COMMENTS

Presented to the States on 2nd July 2019
by the Privileges and Procedures Committee

STATES GREFFE

COMMENTS

The proposition *Establishment of an elected Speaker* ([P.47/2019](#)), lodged by the Chief Minister, is largely based on the output of a working party led by the Chief Minister and the Chairman of the Privileges and Procedures Committee (“PPC”). When the report of the working party was presented to PPC, the Committee decided not to support the proposed position or to present the report formally to the Assembly. The Committee’s view was that the compromise scheme devised by the working party would not satisfy Members on either side of the debate and was not worth taking forward.

The Bailiff is already permitted in law to request a States Member to preside over the Assembly. This proposition would enable the Assembly to choose someone to preside, but that person could only do so when requested by the Bailiff or Deputy Bailiff. This is the same as the present arrangement, whereby the Greffier or Deputy Greffier preside when the Bailiff and Deputy Bailiff cannot do so. In addition, the Bailiff would remain responsible for authorising the tabling of questions and the lodging of propositions.

The report accompanying the proposition states that there are no financial or manpower implications arising from the proposition. PPC does not consider this to be an accurate statement. Paragraph (i) states that additional resources to support a Speaker should be provided within the structure of the States Greffe. There are likely to be some additional resources. A Speaker may wish to travel to meet other presiding officers and may wish to host dinners or receptions for visiting parliamentarians. There may also be a need for additional staff resource to support the Speaker, particularly if it is envisaged that the Speaker undertakes outreach work in the Island.

Statement under Standing Order 37A [Presentation of comment relating to a proposition]

These comments were submitted to the States Greffe after the noon deadline as set out in Standing Order 37A due to an administrative oversight.