

STATES OF JERSEY



DRAFT STATES OF JERSEY (AMENDMENT No. 8) LAW 201- (P.33/2014): AMENDMENT

Lodged au Greffe on 10th April 2014
by Deputy J.A. Martin of St. Helier

STATES GREFFE

PAGE 44, ARTICLE 7 –

After paragraph (a) insert the following paragraph and renumber the remaining paragraphs accordingly –

“(b) for paragraph (2) there shall be substituted the following paragraphs –

“(2) Before appointing an Assistant Minister –

- (a) the Chief Minister must obtain the States’ approval of the appointment;
- (b) a Minister must first obtain the Chief Minister’s consent to the appointment and then the States’ approval of the appointment.

(2A) Before dismissing an Assistant Minister, a Minister must obtain the Chief Minister’s consent.’”.

DEPUTY J.A. MARTIN OF ST. HELIER

REPORT

This amendment goes some way to even out the extra responsibility of Assistant Ministers, both under collective and individual requirements.

At the moment, as long as the Chief Minister is content with the Minister's choice for an Assistant Minister, then that person is appointed.

If far-reaching changes to the Island's system of government are adopted, Assistant Ministers will have the same powers as their Ministers.

Extract from Appendix 2 to the Report (Executive Recommendations) accompanying the Draft States of Jersey (Amendment No. 8) Law in P.33/2014

No.	Recommendation	R.105/2013 page reference
17	The States of Jersey Law 2005 should be amended to make Junior Ministers the default port of call for an executive decision whenever the Minister is out of the Island or is otherwise indisposed.	Page 27
18	One Junior Minister should by default represent their department at the Council of Ministers whenever the Minister is out of the Island or is otherwise indisposed.	Page 27
19	Junior Ministers should have identical rights of access to information to those of their Minister.	Page 27

These changes place much more responsibility, and hopefully accountability, in the hands of Assistant Ministers, who will be more likely to make important Ministerial Decisions in the future. Under the Chief Minister's proposals, Assistant Ministers will also be bound by the collective, which will result in them having greater influence in the Assembly.

If such additional powers are to be given to Assistant Ministers, it is crucial that their appointment is endorsed by the Assembly.

Financial and manpower implications

There are no additional financial or manpower implications for the States arising from this amendment.