

STATES OF JERSEY



DRAFT STATES OF JERSEY (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) LAW 201- (P.176/2010): SECOND AMENDMENT

**Lodged au Greffe on 4th January 2011
by Senator F. du H. Le Gresley**

STATES GREFFE

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PAGE 16, ARTICLE 2 –

- (a) in paragraph (1), in the inserted Article 6A, in paragraph (2) for the words “May 2019” substitute the words “May 2015”;
- (b) in paragraph (3) for the words “Four Senators” there shall be substituted the words “Eight Senators”.

SENATOR F. du H. LE GRESLEY

REPORT

When the States debated P.118/2010 on the 13th October 2010 it struck me as rather perverse that the electorate will have to wait until May 2019 for a full General Election. Reading the Report on P.176/2010 I was again reminded of the absurdity of holding an election in October 2014 for 4 Senators, for a term of office of 4½ years, just 6 months before the rest of the States Chamber is elected in May 2015.

The obvious solution to achieve the desired aim of a full General Election in May 2015 is to elect the 4 Senators for 7 months so that their term of office expires in May 2015. The main downside to this option is that the successful Senatorial candidates will have to run 2 election campaigns within a short period of time. However, as it is likely that some of the candidates will be sitting Senators, who are either current or potential Ministers, it will give the electorate an early opportunity to provide endorsement of their policies, prior to the appointment of the Council of Ministers, after the May 2015 General Election.

The 2006 MORI Poll showed that there was overwhelming public support for the concept of a true, single, general election day and the sooner we achieve this electoral reform the better.

Financial and manpower implications

There will be additional costs to holding an election for 8 Senators in May 2105 as opposed to 4 Senators but these are not quantifiable.

There are no additional manpower implications as the States are already intending to change the States of Jersey Law 2005 to bring effect to the other changes proposed in P.176/2010.