

PRIVILEGES AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

(21st Meeting)

5th October 2004PART A

All members were present, with the exception of Senator P.V.F. Le Claire and Deputy J-A. Bridge, from whom apologies had been received.

Deputy R.G. Le Hérissier
 Connétable D.F. Gray
 Deputy P.N. Troy
 Deputy C.J. Scott-Warren
 Deputy J.A. Bernstein

In attendance -

M.N. de la Haye, Greffier of the States
 Mrs. S. Stoten, Committee Clerk

Note: The Minutes of this meeting comprise Part A only.

Draft States of
 Jersey Law 200-
 Senator S. Syvret
 Amendments.
 450(1)

A1. The Committee, with reference to Act No. A9 of its meeting held on 16th September 2004 and with H.M. Attorney General, Mr. R.W. Whitehead, Principal Legal Adviser and the Law Draftsman present, welcomed Senator S. Syvret who informally submitted his draft amendments to the draft States of Jersey Law 200-, lodged 'au Greffe' by the Committee on 29th June 2004 (P.124/2004).

L.D.
Encl.

The Committee noted that the amendments presented by Senator Syvret were in a draft format and represented his sixth draft. The Committee was requested to give initial consideration of the amendments whilst recognising that they had not been finalised by the Senator or approved by the Bailiff and as such no comment or action could be made. A copy of the sixth draft forms part of this Act for the purpose of providing further detail.

The Committee was apprised of the 31 proposed amendments which focussed on the following areas –

- (a) the role of unelected members;
- (b) the code of conduct for States members
- (c) the introduction of a number of new criminal offences;
- (d) the ability of public sector and parish employees to run for political office;
- (e) the method of appointment and dismissal of the Council of Ministers;
- (f) the accountability of the Chief Minister; and

(g) the possibility of appointing an individual outside prosecutor.

The Committee gave full consideration to the objectives of Senator Syvret's amendments and further noted the comments of H.M. Attorney General on certain amendments. Senator Syvret confirmed he would make a copy of his amendments available to the Policy and Resources Committee who had sought early sight of his proposals in light of its work on the machinery of government reform and the introduction of a ministerial system.

The Committee was conscious that the date of debate for the States of Jersey Law 200- was set for 9th November 2004 and that Senator Syvret's amendments would need to be lodged 'au Greffe' by 26th October 2004 in order to give members a sufficient consultation period. The Committee urged Senator Syvret to consider re-wording his amendments in line with its discussions and stressed that time constraints required him to finalised his proposals as soon as possible.

The Committee agreed it would consider the amendments further at its next meeting to be held on 14th October 2004. The Greffier of the States was requested to collate the final version of the amendments and present a cross reference to its own projet proposing the new Law in order that members could fully appreciate the implications of the proposed changes.

The Committee thank Senator Syvret for his submission and he subsequently withdrew from the meeting.