

STATES OF JERSEY



ELECTORAL COMMISSION: ESTABLISHMENT (P.15/2011) – AMENDMENT

**Lodged au Greffe on 22nd February 2011
by Senator B.E. Shenton**

STATES GREFFE

1 PAGE 2, PARAGRAPH (c) –

For paragraph (c) substitute the following paragraph –

“(c) to request the Privileges and Procedures Committee, after consultation, to bring forward proposals for debate ahead of the debate on the Annual Business Plan 2012 detailing the proposed composition of the Electoral Commission, its anticipated costs, and how it is to be funded;”.

2 PAGE 2, PARAGRAPH (f) –

Delete the words “shall be appointed no later than 30th September 2011 and that it” and after the words “31st December 2012” insert the words “subject to additional funding being provided in the Annual Business Plan 2012”.

SENATOR B.E. SHENTON

REPORT

I would like to thank the Privileges and Procedures Committee for presenting their comments in sufficient time for them to be noted and an amendment lodged. If the Council of Ministers could adopt the same approach we may have less “I would support it but.....” speeches as weaknesses in propositions could be attended to before debate.

The change to paragraph (c) is to allow a detailed examination and consultation process to be undertaken in respect of the construction of the Electoral Commission – with the costs properly identified. There will be many different ideas on how an Electoral Commission should be constructed, and the need to put in place the parameters at this stage is not necessary. I am, for example, against bringing in experts from outside the Island as they do not always understand the nuances of the local system. We want to avoid – if possible – another Clothier debacle.

Therefore the change to (c) allows proper consultation and a considered response at an appropriate time.

Finally on (f) I have added that funding must be in place before this Assembly commits to setting up an Electoral Commission by a certain date.

Financial and manpower implications

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