

STATES OF JERSEY

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REGISTRATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES (P.73/2007): THIRD AMENDMENTS

Lodged au Greffe on 3rd July 2007
by the Privileges and Procedures Committee

STATES GREFFE

REGISTRATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES (P.73/2007): THIRD AMENDMENTS

- (1) *After paragraph (a)(ii)(4) insert the following new sub-paragraph –*
“(5) be accompanied by the party’s most recent statement of accounts”.
- (2) *In sub-paragraph (a)(iv) after the words “10 working days of any changes” insert the words “and to supply to the Court an annual statement of accounts within 3 months of the end of their financial year”.*
- (3) *In sub-paragraph (a)(v), after the words “names of their officials” insert the words “and the most recent statement of accounts”.*

PRIVILEGES AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

REPORT

As explained in its comments on the amendments of Deputy Southern to this proposition (P.73/2007 Amd.) the Privileges and Procedures Committee now accepts that it was wrong to suggest that registered political parties should make public a list of members. As can be seen in the comment PPC therefore urges all members to support amendments (1) to (3) of Deputy Southern's amendments relating to this issue.

PPC's original intention in bringing forward the proposal was to enable the public to have some idea of the size of different parties in the Island. The purpose of this amendment is therefore to insert an alternative requirement for parties, namely that they must supply to the Court an annual statement of accounts which would then be made available for public inspection. This requirement would mirror the requirement for registered political parties in the United Kingdom under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 where parties must submit an annual Statement of Accounts to the Electoral Commission. In the United Kingdom these accounts are then published on the Electoral Commission's website.

(<http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk>)

PPC believes that if political parties are to benefit from the privilege of registration, with the associated right to have their name inserted on ballot papers, it is only right for the public to have some information about the scope of the party. The annual accounts would give details of matters such as donations received and membership fees collected, together with an indication of the party's expenditure. The Committee believes that this is a proportionate requirement which will not give rise to the valid concerns that were raised in relation to the initial proposal for a list of members to be made public.

There are no additional financial or manpower implications for the States as the work involved with receiving the annual statements of account and making them available for public inspection is considered to be minimal.