

STATES OF JERSEY



STANDING ORDERS: MINIMUM LODGING PERIODS – REVISION (P.194/2010) – AMENDMENT

Lodged au Greffe on 12th January 2011
by the Deputy of St. Martin

STATES GREFFE

STANDING ORDERS: MINIMUM LODGING PERIODS – REVISION
(P.194/2010) – AMENDMENT

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After paragraph (a) insert new paragraph (b) as follows –

“(b) to agree that any Comments that are to be presented to the States under Standing Order 37 in relation to a proposition that is subject to a 4 or 6 week minimum lodging period should be submitted to the Greffier of the States for distribution no later than noon on Friday in the week preceding the week in which the proposition is listed for debate;”,

and renumber paragraph (b) as paragraph (c).

DEPUTY OF ST. MARTIN

REPORT

Senator Routier has lodged P.194/2010 seeking States approval to extend the lodging period for certain categories of propositions.

To support his argument, Senator Routier states that the present possible 2 week lodging period creates problems for Ministers who wish to present Comments in good time before the proposition is debated.

He further states that sometimes Comments are only presented just before the debate. I agree with the Senator and say from experience that sometimes Comments are only presented on the actual day of the debate.

However, I would add that the lateness in arrival is not always because of the short lodging period of some propositions, because often Comments are presented at the last minute even when propositions have been lodged for far longer periods.

Irrespective of when propositions have been lodged, I believe it is incumbent on Ministers to ensure that if they wish to present Comments they do so in good time. This will enable more time for States Members to research any information contained in the Comments. It will also assist proposers of propositions with more time to prepare their speech if they wish to incorporate any of the Comments in it.

If Members are minded to support Senator Routier's proposition, I believe it would be helpful to include an amendment asking PPC to amend Standing Orders to ensure that if Ministers are minded to present Comments that they are given to the Greffier no later than noon on the Friday before the proposed day of the proposition's debate.

Financial and manpower implications

Apart from Law Drafting time, I do not believe there are any financial or manpower implications arising from this amendment.