

# STATES OF JERSEY



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

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**Lodged au Greffe on 4th January 2011  
by Senator P.F.C. Ozouf**

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**STATES GREFFE**

**1 PAGE 16, ARTICLE 2 –**

In paragraph (1) –

- (a) in the substituted Article 6, in paragraphs (1) and (2), for the words “May 2015” substitute the words “May 2018”;
- (b) in the substituted Article 6A –
  - (i) in the heading, for the words “2011, 2014 and 2015” substitute the words “2011 and 2014”,
  - (ii) in paragraph (1)(a) for the words “May 2015” substitute the words “October 2014”,
  - (iii) in paragraph (1)(b) for the words “May 2015” substitute the words “October 2014”,
  - (iv) in paragraph (2) –
    - (A) for the words “4 Senators” substitute the words “8 Senators”;
    - (B) for the words “May 2019” substitute the words “May 2018”,
  - (v) after paragraph (2) insert the following paragraph –
    - “(–) There shall be held, in the period of 7 days beginning on 15th October 2014, an ordinary election to elect Deputies, for a term expiring upon the persons elected as Deputies at the ordinary election in May 2018 taking the oath of their office.”,
  - (vi) delete paragraph (3).

**2 PAGE 17, ARTICLE 5 –**

- (a) in the heading, for the words “May 2015” substitute the words “October 2014”;
- (b) in paragraph (2) for the words “May 2015” substitute the words “October 2014”.

**3 PAGE 17-18, ARTICLE 6 -**

In paragraph (2) –

- (a) in the substituted Article 2, in paragraph (1), for the words “May 2015” substitute the words “May 2018”;
- (b) in the substituted Article 2A –
  - (i) for the heading substitute the heading “Transitional arrangements in 2011 and 2014”,
  - (ii) in paragraph (1) for the words “May 2015” substitute the words “October 2014”,

(iii) after paragraph (1) insert the following paragraph –

“(2) An ordinary election shall be held in the period of 7 days beginning on 15th October 2014 to elect Connétables for a term expiring on their places being filled by the ordinary election in May 2018.”.

And renumber the draft Law accordingly.

SENATOR P.F.C. OZOUF

## REPORT

On the 13th October 2010 the States approved P.118/2010, in relation to the composition and election of the States. It was agreed that over time –

1. The terms of office of all members of the States should be 4 years.
2. The single election day for all members should be moved to the Spring.
3. The number of Senators should be reduced from 12 to 8.

P.176/2010 adopts the above changes and also proposes transitional provisions such that the following timetable for reform would be introduced –

(a)	October 2011	Elect 4 Senators for 3½ years	Elect 12 Connétables and 29 Deputies for 3½ years
(b)	October 2014	(Term of office of 6 Senators elected in 2008 expires) Elect 4 Senators for 4½ years	
(c)	May 2015	Elect 4 Senators for 4 years	Elect 12 Connétables and 29 Deputies for 4 years
(d)	May 2019 and every 4 years thereafter	Elect 8 Senators, 12 Connétables and 29 Deputies for 4 years (General Election)	

I believe there are a number of issues with the proposed arrangements –

- The October 2014 Senatorial election would be held separately from all the other elections which would be held in May 2015.
- The purpose of a three-and-half, then four-year term longer was designed to facilitate longer term planning which is to be welcomed. However, the holding of 2 elections within a 6 month period would lead to a protracted period of disruption within the States and the Council of Ministers. This period may well extend to one year and not achieve the desired outcome of longer term planning.
- An election in May 2015 would be held near to the proposed time of the United Kingdom general election. It is likely that Islanders will be focused on the U.K. general election. Local media coverage of the Jersey election could be less extensive than would otherwise be the case.
- The benefits of holding the ‘general’ election in May as opposed to October do not outweigh these difficulties.

An alternative way to proceed would be for the first ‘general’ election to be held in October 2014. This is earlier than that currently proposed (May 2019) and would

achieve the desired outcome of an election for 8 Senators, 12 Connétables and 29 Deputies at the first election to be held following the election to be held in October 2011. The first spring general election could then be held 3½ years later in May 2018.

I also believe that prior to the October 2014 general election a review should be undertaken of the deputorial mandate. My proposed amendments would permit a single reduction in both Senators and Deputies to take place at the October 2014 general election should this considered to be appropriate.

**Revised timetable for reform**

If adopted, these amendments would result in the following revised transitional provisions being introduced –

- The term of office of the 6 Senators elected in 2005 will expire in October 2011. At this stage 4 Senators would be elected but for a period of 3 years rather than 6 years as has hitherto been the case.
- The term of office of the 6 Senators elected in 2008 will expire in October 2014. The term of office of the 4 Senators elected in 2011 will also expire. The number of Senators will be further reduced at this stage, with 8 Senators then being elected. In October 2014, the term of office of the 12 Connétables and 29 Deputies elected in October 2011 will also expire and the first General Election can be held with all members of the States being appointed at the same time. In order to move elections to the Spring, all members can be elected for of 3½ years. This will cause their term of office to terminate in May 2018.
- In May 2018, a Spring General Election can be held with all members being appointed for 4 years.

This can be summarized in the following table –

(a)	October 2011	Elect 4 Senators, 12 Connétables and 29 Deputies for 3 years
(b)	October 2014	Elect 8 Senators, 12 Connétables and 29 Deputies for 3½ years (General Election)
(c)	May 2018	Elect 8 Senators, 12 Connétables and 29 Deputies for 4 years (General Election)

**Financial and manpower implications**

If this amendment is adopted there would be savings as a result of one general election in October 2014 instead of 2 in October 2014 and May 2015. This would result in a saving of some £30,000. In addition, the island’s government would have continuity from October 2014 instead of May 2015. There are no manpower implications.