

STATES OF JERSEY



DRAFT PUBLIC HOLIDAYS AND BANK HOLIDAYS (AMENDMENT) (No. 2) (JERSEY) ACT 201- (P.84/2019): AMENDMENT

**Lodged au Greffe on 20th September 2019
by the Deputy of St. Martin**

STATES GREFFE

DRAFT PUBLIC HOLIDAYS AND BANK HOLIDAYS (AMENDMENT) (No. 2)
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PAGE 7, ARTICLE 1 –

In the substituted text, for “Friday 8th May 2020” substitute “Monday 11th May 2020”.

DEPUTY OF ST. MARTIN

REPORT

It was a surprise to many when this proposition, to make 8th May 2020 an additional Bank Holiday, was lodged, especially as next year's Liberation Day will be such an especially significant event.

In the past, when Liberation Day has fallen on a Saturday or Sunday, it has been more usual to grant an additional Bank Holiday on the Monday. There is therefore some precedent for granting 11th May as the additional Bank Holiday.

Our next Liberation Day, the 75th celebration, will be a very special day. The last significant anniversary when we will have many of those who were in Jersey during the Occupation still with us. I expect that we will hold some exceptional and extra-special events for everyone to enjoy and celebrate, to give thanks, and to remember and to commemorate.

It has already been indicated that the Saturday should, where possible, be reserved for "all-Island" celebrations and commemorations, and that "Parish events" should be held on the Sunday. Given the number of separate events that are expected to be taking place, this is a very sensible suggestion.

However, pre-planning for Sunday evening Parish celebrations has already proved to be a challenge. Many feel that "work on Monday" will keep people back from taking part, or getting involved. A Monday Bank Holiday would hopefully avoid this challenge.

While Victory in Europe Day 75 is a hugely important reason to celebrate, we in Jersey have always concentrated on our own Liberation Day celebrations, with VE Day taking a much lower profile. It is not clear to me why, despite it being the 75th anniversary, we are now proposing a Bank Holiday in celebration of VE Day. We surely still want to do all we can to make this extra-special day a real Liberation Bank Holiday weekend to remember.

It is my own view that the combined weekend would be much improved if Saturday was "all-Island", Sunday was "Parish", and Monday was granted as the additional Bank Holiday, reserved for Islanders to celebrate in whatever individual way they wished.

There may be other considerations that I have not thought of. However, at the very least, I feel that Members of the Assembly should have the ability to voice their opinions on this issue, and vote accordingly.

Financial and manpower implications

There are no additional financial considerations, as I expect that the expense would be similar, whichever of the 2 dates is chosen for the additional Bank Holiday.