



Parliament of Sint Maarten

Staten van Sint Maarten

To the Hon. Minister of Public Health, Social Development and Labor a.i.
Mr. C.L. Wever
Administration Building
Clem Labega Square
Philipsburg

UV/087/2019-2020

Philipsburg, November 12, 2019

Re: Question from MP T.E. Leonard about amendment maternity and paternity leave

Hon. Minister Wever,

Herewith I submit to you a question posed by Member of Parliament, Ms. T.E. Leonard pursuant to article 62 of the Constitution and article 69 of the Rules of Order of the Parliament of Sint Maarten.

The letter is self-explanatory.

Yours truly,

W.V. Marlin
Chairman of Parliament



Tamara Leonard

Member of the Parliament of Sint Maarten

The Honorable Minister, Chris Wever
Ministry of Public Health, Social Development & Labor Affairs (VSA)

Soualiga road #1
Philipsburg

Philipsburg, Friday November 8th 2019

Subject: Update on approved maternity and paternity leave amendment to the labor law

Honorable Minister Wever,

By way of this correspondence, through the chair of Parliament, I am hereby seeking clarity on the status of the maternity and paternity leave amendment to the labor law, that was approved by Parliament on August 7th, 2019?

The amendment increased maternity leave from 12 to 16 weeks. The amendment also introduced a 1 week paternity leave for fathers/partners. The leave will be extended to all who become a parent, whether or not he/she is married to the mother of the newborn, as long as the father/partner legally recognizes the newborn. Accordingly, persons will also be entitled to their wages for the proposed one week off.

Currently, the respective legislation is now in the hands of Government. Considering this and the time that has passed since it was initially approved, I am hereby inquiring as to its whereabouts and would like to know how long will it take before it is officially implemented. Far too often laws are approved by Parliament, however get stuck in the system for extended periods of time without taking effect. I am hoping that the government sees the importance in making sure that this does not be the case with this law.

I look forward to a prompt, comprehensive and clear response to my query.

Respectfully,
MP Tamara Leonard.

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