

DC BOARD OF ELECTIONS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING RECEIPT AND INTENT TO REVIEW INITIATIVE MEASURE

The Board of Elections shall consider in a public hearing whether the proposed measure, “The Vermelle Paid Maternity Leave Act,” is a proper subject matter for initiative at the Board’s regular meeting on Wednesday, June 12, 2024 at 10:30 a.m., at 1015 Half Street SE, Suite 750, Washington DC 20003. The Board will meet remotely. Members of the public can only access the meeting by using the following information:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/5546215828?pwd=MkVTRnBVUW8yc1lhY2tFRC9qY0Vvdz09>

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In making a proper subject matter determination, the Board does not consider the merits of a proposed measure. Instead, it may consider only whether the proposed measure meets the subject matter requirements set forth in District of Columbia law. Specifically, the Board must reject the proposed measure if it determines that:

- The measure conflicts with or seeks to amend the Title IV of the DC Home Rule Act (“the District Charter”);
- The measure conflicts with the U.S. Constitution;
- The measure has not been properly filed;
- The verified statement of contributions (the measure committee’s statement of organization and report of receipts and expenditures) was not timely filed;

- The measure would authorize discrimination in violation of the DC Human Rights Act;
- The measure would negate or limit a budgetary act of the DC Council; or
- The measure would appropriate funds

Those who wish to testify at the hearing on the propriety of the proposed measure in light of the above-referenced criteria should contact the Board’s Office of the General Counsel at 202-727-2194 or ogc@dcboe.org and provide their name, address, telephone number, and name of the organization represented (if any) by no later than Thursday, June 6, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. Any written testimony or memoranda should be submitted for the record to the Board’s Office of the General Counsel, 1015 Half Street SE, Suite 750, Washington, DC 20003 or at ogc@dcboe.org by that date and time as well. Individuals shall be permitted a maximum of three minutes for oral presentations. Representatives of organizations shall be permitted a maximum of five minutes for oral presentations.

The Short Title, Summary Statement, and Legislative Text of the proposed initiative, as submitted to the Board by the proposer(s) of the measure, read as follows:

SHORT TITLE

“Vermelle Paid Maternity Leave Act”

SUMMARY STATEMENT

If enacted, the “Vermelle Paid Maternity Leave Act” would:

- a. Allow pregnant women working in DC to receive one year of full paid maternity leave, once they start their third trimester.
- b. Allow pregnant women working in DC to receive nine months of full paid leave after giving birth.
- c. Allow the significant other/spouse of a pregnant woman to receive full pay while working only half-days during the third trimester, to care for their spouse. This only applies to significant others who work in DC.

LEGISLATIVE TEXT

BE IT ENACTED BY THE ELECTORS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the “Vermelle Paid Maternity Leave Act”.

Sec 2. Black women are 4 times more likely to die from pregnancy related complications than White women. Black women are 43 percent more likely to have a miscarriage than White Women and are 80 percent more likely to develop postpartum depression than White women. Black infants are twice as likely to die in the first year than White infants. Latina women are nearly twice as likely to die from pregnancy related complications than White women and are 40

percent more likely to develop postpartum depression than White women. Asian women are 9 times more likely to report suicidal thoughts during the postpartum period than White women. As of right now DC only allows for two weeks of paid prenatal leave and three months of paid leave to care for a newborn. Doctors say that returning to work less than six months after giving birth, increases the risk of postpartum depression.

Increasing maternity paid leave has been proven to decrease the risk of postpartum depression, and infant mortality. The “Vermelle Paid Maternity Leave Act” will allow pregnant women working in DC to receive paid maternity leave once they start their third trimester and will receive nine months of paid leave after giving birth.

The significant others/spouses of pregnant women will be allowed to receive full pay while working only half-days during the third trimester, to care for their spouse. This applies only to significant others who work in DC. This legislation does not appropriate funds because it is the same funds that would already used for employees if they were not on leave.

Sec 3. This act shall take effect after a 30-day period of Congressional review as provided in section 602(c) (1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of Columbia Register.