

# STATES OF JERSEY



## **SUPPORT FOR PARENTS OF BABIES NEEDING ADDITIONAL NEONATAL CARE (P.52/2023): AMENDMENT**

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**Lodged au Greffe on 11th July 2023  
by the Minister for Social Security  
Earliest date for debate: 18th July 2023**

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**STATES GREFFE**

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For the word “June” substitute “December”

MINISTER FOR SOCIAL SECURITY

**Note:** After this amendment, the proposition would read as follows –

**THE STATES are asked to decide whether they are of opinion –**

that provision, including financial support, should be established to support parents who have preterm babies, or babies requiring neonatal care, and to request the Minister for Social Security to bring forward the proposals for this provision for approval by the Assembly prior to the end of **December** 2024.

## **REPORT**

Ministers acknowledge the challenges faced by parents when a baby is born prematurely or requires hospital treatment within the first four weeks of life.

This proposition allows for proposals to be developed to support local parents and in line with existing Jersey legislation.

The amendment seeks to extend the timeframe within which these proposals are developed.

Whilst the report refers to the UK Neonatal Care (Leave and Pay) Act, this is primary legislation which has very recently been approved. The UK system will not be operational until detailed subordinate legislation is drafted and approved. The current implementation date is scheduled for a time in 2025.

Subject to States approval, the Minister for Social Security will include this work in her 2024 delivery plan. The project will include an examination of both employment rights and benefit entitlement. As part of the project, the Minister will instruct the Employment Forum to undertake a consultation on the appropriate level of employment rights, to include, for example, time off work.

It will not be possible to develop policy options, undertake a consultation and complete law drafting in the first half of next year. As such the amendment seeks to complete this project by the end of 2024.

### **Financial and staffing implications**

There are no additional financial implications arising from the amendment.

Policy resources will be required to undertake this project and therefore will not be available for other agreed priorities.

The report identifies the possible financial cost of providing benefits at a total of over £300,000 a year. The report does not identify a funding source for this additional expenditure and this will be investigated as part of the overall project in 2024. Whilst Ministers are supportive of this proposal, its implementation (to the extent of any benefit payments) will be entirely dependent upon securing sufficient funding on an ongoing basis. Concluding the project by the end of 2024 will allow for a bid for funding in the 2025 Government Plan to be sought, if necessary.