

#	Date Initiated	Draft Law Title	Benefits to the Country	Summary	Status:
					Drafting
					Draft Complete
					Passed
1	30/07/21	Amendment to National Ordinance amending the National Ordinance Spatial Development Plan in connection with the reintroduction of article 28a	Environment: Protects the environment while simplifying the process for getting the permits to excavate.	This amendment was to change allow the Minister by Ministerial Regulation to allow certain exemptions to the requirement of getting permits for demolition and excavation. This intention here is to allow certain very minor works, such as paving a driveway small section of a driveway, removing a small shed in one's yard or other minor works to be listed in the ministerial regulation and prevent unnecessary bureaucracy for minor work.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approved by Parliament July 21, 2020 2. Currently law is in effect
2	06/11/19	Amendment to the National ordinance to amend the General National Ordinance Land Taxes in connection with international obligations	Taxes: Ensures that your data at the tax department is not shared with other countries just based on a Minister's decision. Prevents FATCA from being applied in St. Maarten, which is a deterrent to US investors and locals who want to do business with US Citizens.	The original law that came to parliament was giving the Minister of Finance the right to enter into international agreements to exchange the tax information of citizens. I felt it was too far reaching to allow this to be done by the Minister without first consulting the members of Parliament. So the law was amended to make it that anytime the Minister wishes to enter into such an agreement with another country, before the decree is published, they must come to Parliament to explain why. That way the Parliament can give its approval or disapproval as to whether the Minister should move forward with the decree. The amendment also ensured that the agreements must be done in line with the Data Protection law. One of the international agreements that would need	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve by Parliament March 18, 2020 2. Law is currently in effect 3. Minister has appeared to Parliament once for the signing of the decree of CRS. 4. No decree has been sent to Parliament for

				Parliament approval would be the FATCA, which in my opinion, is a dangerous thing for St. Maarten to sign on to, as it would make St. Maarten less attractive for American investors. This amendment protects us from such agreements.	St. Maarten joining the FATCA
3	27/02/19	Amendment to the national Ordinance combatting money laundering and terrorism financing	Justice: Prevents a situation where in essence everyone in St. Maarten would be considered “politically exposed”, since the island is so small. Being a PEP would make it harder for you to get bank accounts, loans and do business.	The original law was geared towards updating our legal ability to combat money laundering and terrorism financing, following the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Recommendations. However, I noticed that the definition of Politically Exposed Person was extremely broad, which by my estimation could potentially make the majority of the population a politically exposed person. Therefore, the amendment sought to define PEP to just the person holding the functions, and not their relations. Ultimately the amendment was taken up by the government in their own Note of Amendment, and the amended law received the support of Parliament.	1. Approved by Parliament May 14 th 2019
4	11/04/19	Initiative National Ordinance granting an authorization for alienation of the shares belonging to the country of Sint Maarten in the share capital of United Telecommunication Services N.V.	Justice: Brought 22 million guilders to the coffers of government, and because of this law, for the first time ever justice workers were able to get a payment towards their outstanding salaries	This law was drafted as an initiative by MP Brison in order to prevent that while Curacao was selling its share of UTS, that the value of our shares would be deflated. It only would make sense to sell the shares St. Maarten owned at the same time as Curacao to make sure the country gets the same value. The funds were to go to the paying of salaries owed retroactively to Police. In total the government raise over 20 million guilders from the sale.	1. Approved by Parliament July 4 th 2019

5	10/10/19	National ordinance amending the Penal Code in connection with the implementation of some urgent international obligations	Justice: Prevented changes to the penal code that would create an imbalance in the system where defendants would have much less rights than the prosecution. The amendments removed having crown witnesses and the hacking of computers without a computer law, while adding articles to ensure the English language is used in court.	A change to the entire criminal procedure code was brought to Parliament. According to the government, the criminal code was being changed in order to bring St. Maarten in line with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Standards. Upon reviewing this law however, it was clear that the changes were going far beyond the recommendations of the FATF. Many of the articles that were out of line with FATF were proposed to be removed in the amendment that I had presented. However, in the end we decided to handle the law and these amendments in the Committee of Justice, where the committee could hire a criminal lawyer to assist with the changes. The committee of justice have completed the task, and now the amendment has been sent to the government, to then return to parliament for approval.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tabled in the Public Meeting of 10/10/19 2. The amendment was changed again on 20/03/20 and tabled 3. Parliament decided to handle these amendments in committee of Justice 4. Committee of Justice have sent changes to the government.
6	10/10/19	National ordinance amending the Penal Code in connection with the implementation of some urgent international obligations	Justice: Changed the definition of "Terrorist" in the penal code to make sure that the justice system does not inaccurately define a group as terrorists in St. Maarten. Had this law not been incorporated into the law that was ultimately passed, we may have had many people incorrectly	The Penal code changes were proposed by the government to help our laws combat money laundering and terrorism financing. However, upon studying the law, it was clear that the definition of terrorist that was being proposed was really broad. A situation would exist where, for example, if a group of people get into physical altercation in a public place, technically, they could be considered "terrorist". While getting into altercations in public can be considered crimes, to label any and every such situation as terrorism is far too heavy. So the amendment I presented changed the definition	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Passed by Parliament October 11th 2019, and is currently in effect.

			incarcerated as terrorists.	to that of the European Union. It states 8 very specific things that define a person or group as terrorists. The amendment was incorporated into the law by means of a note of amendment from the government, and was passed by Parliament.	
7	18/03/21	National ordinance to amend the National ordinance public health incorporating the Regulation nCoV-2019	Health: This law ensured that COVID-19 was properly defined in the law which would ensure proper access to vaccines on a voluntary basis.	In order to create a legal definition for COVID-19 as a pandemic disease, the government brought an amendment to the public health ordinance. When studying this law, I found that the definition of COVID-19 was not correct, and if not applied correctly, obtaining vaccines and implementing EHAS could have been challenged in court.	Passed by Parliament March 28 2021
8	16/04/21	National Ordinance adjusting opening hours and checking noise pollution	Economy: This law brings the opening hours of businesses to the current day reality, giving many businesses more time to remain open. It also puts regulations in place that don't exist today for sound levels from establishments, which will make it so you have a legal way to deal with noise pollution.	I drafted this initiative law to deal with 2 issues in St. Maarten that existed for far too long: Businesses opening hours being in line with what the law states, and creating regulation for a limit on the sound levels that you hear from businesses. In preparing this law, it became clear that there is no proper regulation for what businesses should adhere to when it comes to noise. There is also a big disconnect between what the law says when businesses should close, and when they are actually closing (for example, the law says bars and restaurants should close at midnight, but we all know in reality this is not the case). Businesses will appreciate this law, as it evens the playing field in terms of opening hours, and the population will appreciate it as	1. Central Committee to handle this law in June 2023, public meeting expected August 2023 for it to be voted on.

				their rights for noise pollution will be clearly stated on a national ordinance level.	
9	30/06/21	National Budget 2021	Finance: This law was the biggest increase in tourism budget that the country has seen since 2010. More investments in tourism as a result of these amendment that brought over 4.5 Million guilders to tourism, which resulted in many millions more in the economy.	The national budget 2021 inexplicably included cuts to the tourism marketing budgets of the country. As a former tourism director, I could not see myself approving a budget that would allow such shapr cuts at a time when we need to recover from COVID-19. After studying the budget, I found that a budget of Nafl 40.5 Million was allocated for the payroll support program. My idea was as follows: Instead of putting so much money into payroll support, lets take a portion of that and invest it in our economy, which would obviously lead to less need to give payroll support if businesses can just sustain themselves from the economy. The money went into tourism marketing programs that would deliver quick results, such as marketing on expedia and trip advisor, doing co-op marketing campaigns with airlines to encourage them to return during the pandemic and many others. The Central Bank in 2022 reported that “ “The strong economic rebound was driven primarily by a sustained pick-up in stay-over tourism, especially in the second half of 2021.” Considering that these amendments went into effect for the second half of 2021, it is clear that the huge marketing push through this amendment helped us surpass expectations.	Accepted July 1 st 2021.
10	09/11/21	Initiative National Ordinance introducing a national health	Health: This brings new money to the country	During the pandemic, the EHAS was created and included an insurance that cost \$30 in order to	1. Law sent to Minister of VSA

		levy on tourists (National ordinance)	without taxing a single local. The money would go to improvement healthcare and social issues in St. Maarten similar to the French Solidarity Tax.	enter the country. The willingness of so many tourists to pay this fee created an opportunity for us to establish this in the long term. Other countries like Bonaire and France have implemented it as well. So I drafted this law to make it that all arriving tourists would pay a fee of \$15, and this revenue unlike the airport revenues goes directly to the government. As my campaign slogan “making tourism work for you”, it is important to ensure that we have the tourism industry contributing to the needs of our citizens. The law had various technical issues that needed boarder restructuring than I could do on my own. For this reason the law was handed over to the Ministry of VSA to complete, and should be on its way back to parliament before the end of 2023, as it is already budgeted for in the 2023 national budget.	for further handling
11	23/01/2021	Consumer Banking Protection Ordinance	Finance: This laws gives all residents of St. Maarten the right to a basic bank account, prevents banks from closing your bank account without first getting permission from the courts, gives a legal basis for government to create a consumer banking protection agency	One of the key promises I made since first becoming a Parliamentarian in 2018 was to introduce some important banking reforms. Soon after election, I began drafting the consumer banking protection law. This law aims to tackle the 4 main issues we know in banking: 1) Everyone should have a bank account 2) The bank account should be open faster. 4) Banks shouldn't be allowed to just close your bank account when they feel like 4) Consumer need to have their rights protected. This draft law covers all 4 of these issues. Similar to the health levy, as this law is very technical in nature and requires	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Motion Basic Bank Accounts passed in Parliament 2. CBCS has vetted the law and given it to the government 3. Council of Ministers have approved the law, and it is on its

				some vetting by the Central Bank, by means of a Motion in May of 2021, this law was sent to the government to be vetted by the Central Bank. Since then, the Central bank has completed the draft, and have sent what we now call the “Right to Basic Banking Law” to Parliament for approval. Finally, once this law passes parliament, the public will immediately have much better experiences at their banks.	way to Parliament
12	20/03/21	National Ordinance Granting a tax incentive for returning graduates	Taxes: Gives our students who go away for studies a significant financial incentive to return home. A 50% cut in taxes that can save them up Naf1 3,000 per month	This law is aimed at addressing one of the key reasons many students don’t choose to return home after completing their studies: the money they when returning home, and the high cost of rent. This law gives them a 50% discount on their wage taxes, and also a 500 nafl monthly stipend towards rent. Our students deserve more, and government should be less concerned about collecting taxes from our returning graduates and more interested in them coming back home and contributing to our society and government.	1. Law drafted 2. Sent on to Fiscal Affairs Department of Ministry of Finance for Review
13	21/01/22	National Budget 2021: Capital Expenditures	Finance: Made 5.5 Million Guilders available to do much needed repairs to roads.	This amendment change the capital expenditure budget to make money available for doing much needed repairs to various roads in St. Maarten.	1. Law passed by Parliament 23/01/22
14	02/05/21	Internet Quality Standard Ordinance	Telecommunication: Creates a minimum bandwidth that internet providers must give to consumers, so with this your internet	St. Maarten ranks among one of the worst in the Caribbean in terms of internet connection speed, especially when considering it from a price-per-megabit perspective. Using the Parlatino Internet quality Standard Act as a basis, this law was drafted to provided a new minimum	Current draft receiving feedback from telecom companies

			speed will be a minimum of 25 mbit. It also creates some price control by making the basic internet package at a maximum of \$55.	speed that internet providers must offer to clients at a fixed price. This price control mechanism is necessary to ensure that companies are forced to evolve with the growing need for bandwidth in the world, and to remain competitive with new developments like starlink.	
15	12/08/2019	Mullet Bay Inquiry	Mullet Bay: This first ever parliamentary inquiry aims to finally come with a sustainable solution for the Country regarding the property of Mullet Bay, which potentially can result in the government acquiring the property and ensuring it is developed in a way that is beneficial to the country, after being dormant for close to 30 years.	On December 12, 2019 Parliament voted and thus established the Committee Parliamentary Inquiry Mullet Bay. The goal of the aforementioned parliamentary inquiry is to obtain insight into the ownership of the Mullet Bay area and the current volatile (legal) position that exists between the owner, Government and the citizens. Furthermore this parliamentary inquiry serves to assess the need for Parliament and Government to intervene in every feasible way possible to protect one of its most precious coastal and inland waterways in the national interest of the country as well as to explore possibilities how best it can be used in the interest of the people from an economic, environmental, heritage and legal perspective. With this inquiry, the truth as to what went wrong with this property over close to 30 years will be revealed, and options for the government to acquire the property for the benefit of St. Maarten will be presented.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research information collected 2. Closed door meetings currently taking place 3. Public Hearings scheduled for August 2023
16	10/11/22	National Ordinance Top Incomes	Finance: This law raised adjusted the maximum salary of CEO of government owned	As part of some of the financial reforms the country is making, one of the things was the need to create a maximum cap on the salaries of the top management of government owned	Law passed on December 12 2023

			<p>entities to something more realistic. The cap that was being proposed would probably result in us losing good local CEO's who would not be interested in working for these companies at such a low salary compared to what they would be offered elsewhere.</p>	<p>entities. The idea was to cap it at about the same salary as the Prime Minister of the country. However, when I did research into what CEO's in similar functions would make, it was clear that this was too far below what the regional averages are. This might result in many local CEO's opting to leave government owned companies and go elsewhere or even off island. Having so many CEO's leaving around the same time would cause massive issues for these critical companies like the Harbor, GEBE and SZV. This amendment was done to then bring the top function to what the Prime Ministers salary was before the cuts that were made to political salaries in 2020. This was a fair compromise that was well received by these companies.</p>	
17	November 4 th 2022	Hotel Tax Ordinance Amendment	<p>Economy: We increase the hotel tax which is currently the lowest in the entire Caribbean, which goes directly to marketing the country, which brings more tourists to St. Maarten, which gives you more jobs and opportunities.</p>	<p>As a former tourism director, one thing I had realized is that the hotel tax we collected for each night a tourist stays in a room is far too low when you compare it to the rest of the Caribbean. The Caribbean average hotel tax rate per night is 12.5%, whereas St. Maarten's rate is 5%, which is also the lowest in the entire Caribbean. Many always compare the success of Aruba, but have to also take into consideration Aruba's 13% hotel tax rate and their \$45 million dollars marketing budget that is funded from that 13%. St. Maarten on the other hand collected just 8 Million. Considering that this rate is charged on top of what hotels charge for the room, this is directly a tax to the tourist, and</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draft presented to SHTA for feedback 2. Feedback received 3. Law with parliament secretariat for review, to be sent to council of advice

				not to any local business. For this reason, I have drafted an amendment to the Hotel Tax ordinance to increase it gradually to just below the Caribbean Average: 8% in 2024, 10% in 2026 and 12% in 2028. In addition, the law is adjusted to allow persons who rent their properties on AirBnB to pay their hotel tax by AirBnB directly collecting the fee and remitting it to the government.	
18	19/08/2015	National Ordinance amending the Cinema Ordinance	Culture and Youth: Families can now watch movies together with their children, and a portion of what you pay for the ticket will go to a performing arts fund, bringing about 1.7 million guilders a year to performing arts.	This law was originally drafted by UP MP Tamara Leonard. She did not get to complete the draft before leaving parliament, so the UP Faction chose to continue with the draft and complete it. This law modernizes the cinema ordinance, which has various rules and regulations about watching movies at the local cinema. One of the key things that changed is that this draft allows parents to accompany minors to watch any movie at the Theater, which is common everywhere in the world. The draft also creates a Performance Arts fund, where all of the fees collected by the government for ticket sales go towards improving local performing arts in the country.	1. Law first drafted by MP Leonard August 2015 2. Law taken over by MP Brison November 2022 3. To be voted on June 28 2023
19	15/03/2021	Immigration and Labor Permit Reform	Immigration: There will be a significant increase to the fees for work permits, in exchange for a much better process for businesses. The extra funds go	Since becoming a Country in 2010, St. Maarten has maintained an old system of immigration that does not make sense for our current structure: A separate administrative process for a work permit and residence permit, because the Netherlands Antilles Minister approved admission, while the local government handled work permit. As a	1. Law drafted and reviewed by ministry of VSA and TEATT 2. Law with secretariat to be forwarded

			<p>towards training locals to fill the position for which the work permit is granted, which means less permits will have to be granted and more jobs go to locals.</p>	<p>country, this no longer makes as much sense. This amendment merges the process of a work permit and residence permit, under the premise that someone who is given a right to work here obviously needs to live here. In addition, other changes are made:</p> <p>Changes to the Admission and Expulsion Law:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Persons born in St. Maarten now have automatic right to permanent residence. 2. Persons with a work permit now get automatic residence permit. 3. Introduction of a residence by investment program is clearly defined. <p>Changes to the work permit law</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Considering the heavy nature of such a decision, and the possible litigation that follows, only the Minister can reject a work permit. The civil service is forbidden from being mandated to do so. 2. The items to be requested for a work permit must be clearly defined in the national decree. This to prevent the goalpost of requirements from being adjusted ad hoc by the department. 3. In the case of a renewal, only documents that have since expired need to be submitted. For example, diplomas and educational documents that don't expire and don't need to be resubmitted. (article 5.4) 	<p>to council of advice</p>
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				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. The legal basis for the fees are stated more clearly in article 5.5 5. The time for a decision has been reduced from 6 to 4 weeks. 6. The employer is now responsible for immediately informing the department when the worker no longer is with the company 7. A fast-track service is introduced that grants a work permit within 2 weeks after receiving a completed application, at a cost of 300% the usual price 8. A new tariff system that shows a significant increase in the cost of work permits is added. This new tariff takes into account inflation and also the improved service being received. This income is expected to increase governments income from work permits by 175%, not counting the fast track service income 	
20	05/04/2021	Cryptocurrency regulation law	<p>Finance: There is no crypto currency regulation in St. Maarten, so by making it optional legal tender, crypto will now fall under the same regulation as regular money. This makes investing in crypto much safer for locals,</p>	<p>Blockchain technology and cryptocurrency continues to grow in the world as well as in St. Maarten. However, in St. Maarten there is really no regulation with regards to cryptocurrency. This is not an ideal situation as this can put businesses and residents at risks who are not aware of the possible consequences of not using cryptocurrency wisely. In addition, we have a situation where the government may be losing out on tax revenue if it is not clear in the law in what manner cryptocurrency is taxable and should be recognized as a valid form of exchange</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Draft to be reviewed by the Financial Intelligence Unit (MOT), before going to council of advice

			while protecting the economy from misuse.	to be taxed. For this reason, to deal with the possible risks, to comply with FATF requirements, as well as ensure there is clarity with regards to taxation and cryptocurrency, two main changes are made in this draft. The Civil Code is adjusted to recognized certain blockchains that have a large market share as optional legal tender, and the MOT law is changed to ensure that businesses that are considered to be high risk must report their cryptocurrency transactions. By ensuring that these basic regulations are in place, proper and effective use of cryptocurrency to help within our economy will now be much more viable.	
21	04/21/23	Motor Vehicle inspection	Finance: The motor vehicle inspection fees will now go directly towards fixing roads, large vehicles like container trucks will have be inspected betterand the service received for motor vehicle inspection, especially for large vehicles will be improved, which improves road safety.	In 2022 the general audit chamber released a report in which it made an analysis of our legislation related to what is called the road fund. This analysis found that Saint Martin's government is not making use of the road fund which is designed to take the income that is collected from motor vehicle tax and ensures that it goes towards repairing and building new roads. Since we know how much Saint Martin is in desperate need to fix its roads I drafted this amendment to make it easier for both the parliament and the government to make use of the road fund in our national budget. The draft adjusts the way the road fund is funded by adding the motor vehicle inspection as well as the car rental tax. A restructuring of the motor vehicle inspection fees is also made to ensure	Law at council of advice, then to parliament for handling

				that larger vehicles are properly inspected to promote road safety.	
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