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HOUSE BILL 1597

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State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2011 Regular Session

By Representatives Miloscia, Green, Ormsby, Moeller, Reykdal, Hunt, Dickerson, Appleton, Ryu, Hasegawa, Pettigrew, Fitzgibbon, and Kenney

Read first time 01/26/11. Referred to Committee on Labor & Workforce Development.

1 AN ACT Relating to achieving economic security through income  
2 sufficient to meet basic needs; amending RCW 49.46.005 and 49.46.020;  
3 and providing for submission of this act to a vote of the people.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 49.46.005 and 1961 ex.s. c 18 s 1 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 Whereas the establishment of a minimum wage for employees is a  
8 subject of vital and imminent concern to the people of this state and  
9 requires appropriate action by the legislature to establish minimum  
10 standards of employment within the state of Washington, therefore the  
11 legislature declares that in its considered judgment the health, safety  
12 and the general welfare of the citizens of this state require the  
13 enactment of this measure, and exercising its police power, the  
14 legislature endeavors by this chapter to establish a minimum wage for  
15 employees of this state to encourage employment opportunities within  
16 the state and to allow employees to support themselves and their  
17 families with dignity. The legislature seeks to establish a minimum  
18 wage that enables employees to provide for the basic needs of their  
19 families and, therefore, not rely on social services provided by the

1 state and paid for by state taxpayers. The provisions of this chapter  
2 are enacted in the exercise of the police power of the state for the  
3 purpose of protecting the immediate and future health, safety and  
4 welfare of the people of this state.

5 **Sec. 2.** RCW 49.46.020 and 1999 c 1 s 1 are each amended to read as  
6 follows:

7 ~~(1) ((Until January 1, 1999, every employer shall pay to each of~~  
8 ~~his or her employees who has reached the age of eighteen years wages at~~  
9 ~~a rate of not less than four dollars and ninety cents per hour.~~

10 ~~(2) Beginning January 1, 1999, and until January 1, 2000, every~~  
11 ~~employer shall pay to each of his or her employees who has reached the~~  
12 ~~age of eighteen years wages at a rate of not less than five dollars and~~  
13 ~~seventy cents per hour.~~

14 ~~(3) Beginning January 1, 2000, and until January 1, 2001, every~~  
15 ~~employer shall pay to each of his or her employees who has reached the~~  
16 ~~age of eighteen years wages at a rate of not less than six dollars and~~  
17 ~~fifty cents per hour.~~

18 ~~(4))~~(a) Beginning on January 1, 2001, and each following January  
19 1st until January 1, 2013, as set forth under (b) of this subsection,  
20 every employer shall pay to each of his or her employees who has  
21 reached the age of eighteen years wages at a rate of not less than the  
22 amount established under (b) of this subsection.

23 (b) On September 30, 2000, and on each following September 30th,  
24 until September 30, 2012, the department of labor and industries shall  
25 calculate an adjusted minimum wage rate to maintain employee purchasing  
26 power by increasing the current year's minimum wage rate by the rate of  
27 inflation. The adjusted minimum wage rate shall be calculated to the  
28 nearest cent using the consumer price index for urban wage earners and  
29 clerical workers, CPI-W, or a successor index, for the twelve months  
30 prior to each September 1st as calculated by the United States  
31 department of labor. Each adjusted minimum wage rate calculated under  
32 this subsection ~~((4))~~ (1)(b) takes effect on the following January  
33 1st.

34 ~~((5))~~ (2)(a) Beginning on January 1, 2013, and each following  
35 January 1st as set forth under (b) of this subsection, every employer  
36 shall pay to each of his or her employees who has reached the age of

1 eighteen years wages at a rate of not less than the amount established  
2 under (b) of this subsection.

3 (b) On September 30, 2012, and on each following September 30th,  
4 the department of labor and industries shall calculate an adjusted  
5 minimum wage rate to maintain employee purchasing power by increasing  
6 the current year's minimum wage rate by the rate of inflation. Each  
7 adjusted minimum wage rate calculated under this subsection (2)(b)  
8 takes effect on the following January 1st.

9 (i) Except as provided in (b)(ii) of this subsection, the adjusted  
10 minimum wage rate shall be calculated to the nearest cent using the  
11 percentage increase in the consumer price index for urban wage earners  
12 and clerical workers, CPI-W, or a successor index, for the twelve  
13 months prior to each September 1st as calculated by the United States  
14 department of labor.

15 (ii) If the per capita personal income for the preceding calendar  
16 year for Washington is greater than: (A) The per capita personal  
17 income for the second preceding calendar year for Washington; and (B)  
18 the per capita personal income for the preceding calendar year for the  
19 United States, the adjusted minimum wage rate shall be calculated to  
20 the nearest cent using the percentage increase in the consumer price  
21 index for urban wage earners and clerical workers, CPI-W, or a  
22 successor index, for the twelve months prior to each September 1st as  
23 calculated by the United States department of labor plus three percent.

24 (3) The director shall by ((regulation)) rule establish the minimum  
25 wage for employees under the age of eighteen years.

26 NEW SECTION. Sec. 3. The secretary of state shall submit this act  
27 to the people for their adoption and ratification, or rejection, at the  
28 next general election to be held in this state, in accordance with  
29 Article II, section 1 of the state Constitution and the laws adopted to  
30 facilitate its operation.

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