
HOUSE BILL 2200

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1997 Regular Session

By Representatives Gombosky, Dunshee, Wood, Blalock, Cody, Ogden, Keiser, Dickerson, Butler, Sullivan, Scott, Regala, Costa, Murray and Wolfe

Read first time 02/26/97. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

1 AN ACT Relating to the state minimum wage; and amending RCW
2 49.46.020.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 49.46.020 and 1993 c 309 s 1 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, every employer
7 shall pay to each of his or her employees who has reached the age of
8 eighteen years wages at a rate of not less than four dollars and ninety
9 cents per hour.

10 (2)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection:

11 (i) Beginning January 1, 1998, the applicable minimum wage rate
12 under subsection (1) of this section shall be five dollars and fifty
13 cents per hour.

14 (ii) Beginning January 1, 1999, the applicable minimum wage rate
15 under subsection (1) of this section shall be six dollars per hour.

16 (iii) Beginning January 1, 2000, the applicable minimum wage rate
17 under subsection (1) of this section shall be six dollars and fifty
18 cents per hour.

1 (iv) Beginning on January 1, 2001, the applicable minimum wage rate
2 under subsection (1) of this section shall be determined under this
3 subsection (2)(a)(iv). On September 30, 2000, and on each September
4 30th thereafter, the department of labor and industries shall calculate
5 an adjusted minimum wage rate to maintain employees' purchasing power
6 by increasing the minimum wage to respond to inflation. The department
7 shall calculate the adjusted minimum wage rate to the nearest cent
8 using the implicit price deflator for the previous calendar year as
9 calculated by the United States department of commerce, or a successor
10 agency, and adopted by the economic and revenue forecast council. The
11 adjusted minimum wage rate calculated under this subsection (2)(a)(iv)
12 takes effect each year on January 1st following calculation.

13 (b) Beginning January 1, 2000, the applicable minimum wage rate for
14 an employer that maintains qualified health benefits is fifty cents
15 less than the applicable minimum wage rate established under (a) of
16 this subsection. The employer must provide proof of maintaining
17 qualified health benefits to the administrator of the Washington state
18 health care authority. The administrator shall by December 31, 1999,
19 and each December 31st thereafter, report to the department the
20 employers maintaining qualified health benefits. As used in this
21 subsection:

22 (i) "Maintaining qualified health benefits" means that the employer
23 pays the cost of providing health care benefits for its employees that
24 are equal to, or greater than, the benefits available under the
25 Washington basic health plan, chapter 70.47 RCW.

26 (ii) "Paying the cost" means that the employer pays one hundred
27 percent of the cost of the health care benefits, except for employee
28 copayments to the extent that the copayments do not exceed copayments
29 required under chapter 70.47 RCW.

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

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