
HOUSE BILL 1774

State of Washington 58th Legislature 2003 Regular Session

By Representatives Cox, Schoesler, Delvin, Armstrong, Mielke and McMahan

Read first time 02/10/2003. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

1 AN ACT Relating to the minimum hourly wage; amending RCW 49.46.020;
2 and declaring an emergency.

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

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

6 (1) Until January 1, (~~(1999)~~) 2004, every employer shall pay to
7 each of his or her employees who has reached the age of eighteen years
8 wages at a rate of not less than (~~four dollars and ninety cents~~)
9 seven dollars and one cent 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 as set forth under (b) of this subsection)) 2004, every employer~~

1 shall pay to each of his or her employees who has reached the age of
2 eighteen years and who does not work primarily in a rural county as
3 defined in RCW 43.160.020 wages at a rate of not less than the ((amount
4 established under (b) of this subsection.

5 ~~(b) On September 30, 2000, and on each following September 30th,~~
6 ~~the department of labor and industries shall calculate an adjusted~~
7 ~~minimum wage rate to maintain employee purchasing power by increasing~~
8 ~~the current year's minimum wage rate by the rate of inflation. The~~
9 ~~adjusted minimum wage rate shall be calculated to the nearest cent~~
10 ~~using the consumer price index for urban wage earners and clerical~~
11 ~~workers, CPI-W, or a successor index, for the twelve months prior to~~
12 ~~each September 1st as calculated by the United States department of~~
13 ~~labor. Each adjusted minimum wage rate calculated under this~~
14 ~~subsection (4)(b) takes effect on the following January 1st)) urban
15 adjusted minimum wage rate calculated as set forth in subsection (4) of
16 this section.~~

17 (3) Beginning on January 1, 2004, every employer shall pay to each
18 of his or her employees who has reached the age of eighteen years and
19 who works primarily in a rural county as defined in RCW 43.160.020
20 wages at a rate of not less than the rural adjusted minimum wage rate
21 calculated as set forth in subsection (4) of this section.

22 (4) On September 30th of each year, the department of labor and
23 industries shall calculate to the nearest cent urban and rural adjusted
24 minimum wage rates using the consumer price indices specified in this
25 subsection for the twelve months prior to each September 1st as
26 calculated by the United States department of labor. For the urban
27 adjusted minimum wage rate, the department shall use the national
28 consumer price index for urban wage earners and clerical workers, CPI-
29 W, in United States cities or a successor index. For the rural
30 adjusted minimum wage rate, the department shall use the national
31 consumer price index for urban wage earners and clerical workers, CPI-
32 W, in class D areas or a successor index. The adjusted minimum wage
33 rates calculated under this subsection take effect on January 1st of
34 the following year.

35 (5) The director shall by regulation establish the minimum wage for
36 employees under the age of eighteen years.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act is necessary for the immediate
2 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
3 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
4 immediately.

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