

---

SENATE BILL 5384

---

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senators Miloscia, Jayapal, Chase, Keiser, Conway, Hasegawa, Kohl-Welles, Darneille, and Frockt

Read first time 01/21/15. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

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  
6 to 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,  
12 safety and the general welfare of the citizens of this state require  
13 the 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  
20 state and paid for by state taxpayers. The provisions of this chapter  
21 are enacted in the exercise of the police power of the state for the

1 purpose of protecting the immediate and future health, safety and  
2 welfare of the people of this state.

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

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

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

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

16 ~~(4))~~(a) Beginning on January 1, 2001, and each following January  
17 1st until January 1, 2016, as set forth under (b) of this subsection,  
18 every employer shall pay to each of his or her employees who has  
19 reached the age of eighteen years wages at a rate of not less than  
20 the amount established under (b) of this subsection.

21 (b) On September 30, 2000, and on each following September 30th,  
22 until September 30, 2015, the department of labor and industries  
23 shall calculate an adjusted minimum wage rate to maintain employee  
24 purchasing power by increasing the current year's minimum wage rate  
25 by the rate of inflation. The adjusted minimum wage rate shall be  
26 calculated to the nearest cent using the consumer price index for  
27 urban wage earners and clerical workers, CPI-W, or a successor index,  
28 for the twelve months prior to each September 1st as calculated by  
29 the United States department of labor. Each adjusted minimum wage  
30 rate calculated under this subsection ~~((4))~~ (1)(b) takes effect on  
31 the following January 1st.

32 ~~((5))~~ (2)(a) Beginning on January 1, 2016, and each following  
33 January 1st as set forth under (b) of this subsection, every employer  
34 shall pay to each of his or her employees who has reached the age of  
35 eighteen years wages at a rate of not less than the amount  
36 established under (b) of this subsection.

37 (b) On September 30, 2015, and on each following September 30th,  
38 the department of labor and industries shall calculate an adjusted  
39 minimum wage rate to maintain employee purchasing power by increasing

1 the current year's minimum wage rate by the rate of inflation. Each  
2 adjusted minimum wage rate calculated under this subsection (2)(b)  
3 takes effect on the following January 1st.

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

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

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

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

--- END ---