
SENATE BILL 5422

State of Washington 64th Legislature 2015 Regular Session

By Senators Baumgartner, Braun, and Angel

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

1 AN ACT Relating to establishing a temporary teen training wage;
2 and adding new sections to chapter 49.46 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 49.46
5 RCW to read as follows:

6 The legislature acknowledges that pursuant to Initiative Measure
7 No. 688 enacted by Washington state voters in 1998, the state
8 director of labor and industries is authorized by rule to set a
9 subminimum wage for youth, and has set a wage for young workers aged
10 fourteen and fifteen at eighty-five percent of the state minimum
11 wage. The purpose of this subminimum wage rule is to incentivize
12 employers to hire unskilled teen workers. The legislature finds that
13 over the last decade, Washington has consistently ranked among the
14 top ten states with the highest unemployment rate for sixteen to
15 nineteen year olds, which negatively impacts an individual's long-
16 term employment prospects and earning potential.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 49.46
18 RCW to read as follows:

19 Employers may pay teen training wages to new employees sixteen to
20 nineteen years of age at eighty-five percent of the minimum wage

1 required under RCW 49.46.020, or at the minimum wage rate required
2 under federal law, whichever is greater. Employees working under the
3 teen training wage may not constitute more than ten percent of an
4 employer's workforce, except that employers with fewer than twenty
5 employees may employ two employees at a time using the teen wage.

--- END ---