
HOUSE BILL 2921

State of Washington

57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Representatives Chandler, Ahern, Schindler, McMorris, Holmquist and
Dunn

Read first time 02/06/2002. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

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

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The employment security department must
5 study the impact of the state minimum wage increase under section 1,
6 chapter 1, Laws of 1999 (Initiative Measure No. 688, approved November
7 3, 1998). The department must contract with the University of
8 Washington and cooperate in supplying data to the university for
9 purposes of the study. The university must choose an advisory
10 committee to advise the university on the design of the study. The
11 committee will consist of an equal number of economists who supported
12 the minimum wage initiative and who opposed the initiative, and an
13 equal number of representatives of labor and of business. The minimum
14 wage study will include the identification of the affected population
15 of employers and employees, and a survey of a sample of the affected
16 population. The survey instrument will include questions regarding the
17 longitudinal impact of the initiative on wages, employment, employee
18 hours, employee benefits, tip income, productivity, prices, business
19 closures and openings, social welfare payments, and the demographic

1 characteristics of the affected population. To the extent possible,
2 the study will show the comparative impact on employees and businesses
3 in eastern and western Washington. The study will also attempt to
4 verify the information provided by survey respondents. A report of
5 findings will be presented to the governor and the legislature by
6 December 1, 2004.

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

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

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

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

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

25 (b) Except as provided in subsection (5) of this section, on
26 September 30, 2000, and on each following September 30th, the
27 department of labor and industries shall calculate an adjusted minimum
28 wage rate to maintain employee purchasing power by increasing the
29 current year's minimum wage rate by the rate of inflation. The
30 adjusted minimum wage rate shall be calculated to the nearest cent
31 using the consumer price index for urban wage earners and clerical
32 workers, CPI-W, or a successor index, for the twelve months prior to
33 each September 1st as calculated by the United States department of
34 labor. Each adjusted minimum wage rate calculated under this
35 subsection (4)(b) takes effect on the following January 1st.

36 (5) Beginning January 1, 2003, and until January 1, 2006, every
37 employer shall pay to each of his or her employees who has reached the

1 age of eighteen years wages at a rate of not less than six dollars and
2 ninety cents per hour.

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

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