
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 350 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY COHEN, B. BOYLE, V. BROWN, BROWNLEE, CALTAGIRONE,
P. DALEY, DAVIS, DIGIROLAMO, FRANKEL, FREEMAN, GIBBONS,
GINGRICH, GOODMAN, HAGGERTY, W. KELLER, MAHONEY, MILLARD,
MIRABITO, MIRANDA, MURT, O'BRIEN, PAINTER, PARKER, READSHAW,
SCHLOSSBERG, SNYDER AND YOUNGBLOOD, JUNE 10, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND INDUSTRY, JUNE 10, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Commemorating the 101st anniversary of the minimum wage law.

2 WHEREAS, On June 4, 1912, Massachusetts passed the country's
3 first minimum wage law, at first applying only to women and
4 children, and soon after industry-specific wage boards were
5 created to determine respective minimum wages; and

6 WHEREAS, In 1914, a Massachusetts wage board organized for
7 the state's brush industry established a minimum wage of 16¢ per
8 hour; and

9 WHEREAS, Between 1912 and 1923, 15 other states, including
10 the District of Columbia, followed Massachusetts' lead in
11 establishing minimum wage laws; and

12 WHEREAS, In 1923, the United States Supreme Court in *Adkins*
13 *v. Children's Hospital* struck down the District of Columbia's
14 minimum wage law on the basis that it violated the right of
15 contract under the due process clause of the Fifth Amendment;
16 and

1 WHEREAS, In 1933, during the height of the Great Depression,
2 United States Labor Secretary Frances Perkins advocated for a
3 national minimum wage, and President Franklin D. Roosevelt made
4 the minimum wage a key platform of his 1936 re-election bid,
5 promising to constitutionally protect American workers; and

6 WHEREAS, In 1938, the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act passed
7 with a 25¢ per hour wage floor; and

8 WHEREAS, In 1941, the United States Supreme Court in *United*
9 *States v. F.W. Darby Lumber Co.* upheld the Federal Fair Labor
10 Standards Act on a 9-0 decision; and

11 WHEREAS, Justice Harlan Stone stated that the
12 constitutionality of minimum wages "is no longer open to
13 discussion"; therefore be it

14 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives commemorate the
15 101st anniversary of the first-in-the-nation minimum wage law.