

2014 -- S 2249

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

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A N A C T

RELATING TO LABOR - MINIMUM WAGES

Introduced By: Senators Lynch, Miller, Metts, Pearson, and Satchell

Date Introduced: January 30, 2014

Referred To: Senate Labor

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 28-12-3 of the General Laws in Chapter 28-12 entitled "Minimum  
2 Wages" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **28-12-3. Minimum wages. --** (a) Every employer shall pay to each of his or her  
4 employees: commencing July 1, 1999, at least the minimum wage of five dollars and sixty five  
5 cents (\$5.65) per hour. Commencing September 1, 2000, the minimum wage is six dollars and  
6 fifteen cents (\$6.15) per hour.

7 (b) Commencing January 1, 2004, the minimum wage is six dollars and seventy-five  
8 cents (\$6.75) per hour.

9 (c) Commencing March 1, 2006, the minimum wage is seven dollars and ten cents  
10 (\$7.10) per hour.

11 (d) Commencing January 1, 2007, the minimum wage is seven dollars and forty cents  
12 (\$7.40) per hour.

13 (e) Commencing January 1, 2013, the minimum wage is seven dollars and seventy-five  
14 cents (\$7.75) per hour.

15 (f) Commencing January 1, 2014, the minimum wage is eight dollars (\$8.00) per hour.

16 (g) Commencing January 1, 2015, the minimum wage is nine dollars (\$9.00) per hour.

17 (h) Commencing January 1, 2016, the minimum wage is ten dollars (\$10.00) per hour.

18 (i) Commencing January 1, 2017, and on each January 1 thereafter, the department of  
19 labor and training shall calculate an adjusted minimum wage rate to maintain employee

1 purchasing power by increasing the current year's minimum wage rate by the rate of inflation.

2 The adjusted minimum wage rate shall be calculated to the nearest cent using the  
3 consumer price index for urban wage earners and clerical workers, CPI-W, or a successor index,  
4 for the previous year as calculated for the northeast region by the United States department of  
5 labor. Each adjusted minimum wage rate so calculated shall take effect on July 1 of the preceding  
6 year.

7 (j) The Rhode Island minimum wage rate automatically increases to fifteen cents (\$.15)  
8 above the rate set in the Fair Labor Standards Act if the federal minimum wage equals or  
9 becomes higher than the state minimum.

10 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
A N A C T  
RELATING TO LABOR - MINIMUM WAGES

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1           This act would provide an increase in the minimum wage and would establish a  
2 framework for calculating the Rhode Island minimum wage from 2017 forward.

3           This act would take effect upon passage.

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