

HOUSE BILL 295

K3, P4

4r0136
CF SB 331

By: **The Speaker (By Request – Administration) and Delegates Anderson, Barkley, Barve, Branch, Burns, Carter, Clippinger, Cullison, Frick, Gilchrist, Glenn, Hammen, Healey, Hixson, Holmes, Hubbard, Hucker, Jones, Kaiser, A. Kelly, Kramer, Lafferty, Lee, Luedtke, McIntosh, A. Miller, Mitchell, Nathan–Pulliam, Niemann, Olszewski, Proctor, Reznik, B. Robinson, S. Robinson, Rosenberg, Simmons, Stukes, Swain, F. Turner, Valderrama, Vaughn, Walker, A. Washington, M. Washington, and Zucker**

Introduced and read first time: January 20, 2014

Assigned to: Economic Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Maryland Minimum Wage Act of 2014

FOR the purpose of specifying the State minimum wage rate that is in effect for certain time periods; increasing, except under certain circumstances, the State minimum wage rate in effect for certain periods of time based on the annual growth in the Consumer Price Index; requiring the Commissioner of Labor and Industry, beginning on a certain date and each subsequent year, to determine and announce the growth in the Consumer Price Index, if any, and the new State minimum wage rate; repealing the exemption from the Maryland Wage and Hour Law for certain individuals; altering the exemptions from a certain provision of law related to the payment of overtime wages; altering the percentage of the minimum wage rate that may be included by an employer as a tip credit amount as part of an employee's wage; altering the number of hours to be used by certain employers to compute overtime wages for certain employees; repealing the authorization for certain employers to use a certain number of hours to compute overtime wages for certain employees; requiring a court, under certain circumstances, to make a certain award to an employee; authorizing a court, under certain circumstances, to determine that liquidated damages should not be awarded or to award a lesser amount than required under a certain provision of this Act; requiring, rather than authorizing, a court, under certain circumstances, to award an employee certain fees and costs; defining a certain term; and generally relating to the payment of wages under the Maryland Wage and Hour Law.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 Article – Labor and Employment
 Section 3–403, 3–413, 3–415(b), 3–419, 3–420, and 3–427
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
 Article – Labor and Employment
 Section 3–415(a)
 Annotated Code of Maryland
 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Labor and Employment

3–403.

(a) This subtitle does not apply to an individual who:

(1) is employed in a capacity that the Commissioner defines, by regulation, to be administrative, executive, or professional;

(2) is employed in a nonadministrative capacity at an organized camp, including a resident or day camp;

(3) is under the age of 16 years and is employed no more than 20 hours in a week;

(4) is employed as an outside salesman;

(5) is compensated on a commission basis;

(6) [is at least 62 years old and is employed no more than 25 hours in a week;

(7)] is a child, parent, spouse, or other member of the immediate family of the employer;

[(8) is employed in a motion picture or drive-in theater;]

[(9)] (7) is employed as part of the training in a special education program for emotionally, mentally, or physically handicapped students under a public school system;

[(10)] (8) is employed by an employer who is engaged in canning, freezing, packing, or first processing of perishable or seasonal fresh fruits, vegetables, or horticultural commodities, poultry, or seafood; **OR**

[(11)] (9) engages in the activities of a charitable, educational, not for profit, or religious organization if:

- (i) the service is provided gratuitously; and
- (ii) there is, in fact, no employer–employee relationship[; or

(12) is employed in a cafe, drive–in, drugstore, restaurant, tavern, or other similar establishment that:

- (i) sells food and drink for consumption on the premises; and
- (ii) has an annual gross income of \$250,000 or less].

(b) This subtitle does not apply to an individual who:

(1) is employed in agriculture if, during each quarter of the preceding calendar year, the employer used no more than 500 agricultural–worker days;

(2) is engaged principally in the range production of livestock; or

(3) is employed as a hand–harvest laborer and is paid on a piece–rate basis in an operation that, in the region of employment, has been and customarily and generally is recognized as having been paid on that basis, if:

(i) the individual:

1. commutes daily from the permanent residence of the individual to the farm where the individual is employed; and

2. during the preceding calendar year, was employed in agriculture less than 13 weeks; or

(ii) the individual:

1. is under the age of 17;

2. is employed on the same farm as a parent of the individual or a person standing in the place of the parent; and

3. is paid at the same rate that an employee who is at least 17 years old is paid on the same farm.

3-413.

(a) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) “CONSUMER PRICE INDEX” MEANS THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR ALL URBAN CONSUMERS FOR THE WASHINGTON-BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN AREA OR A SUCCESSOR INDEX PUBLISHED BY THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS.

(3) [In this section, “employer”] “EMPLOYER” includes a governmental unit.

(b) Except as provided in § 3-414 of this subtitle, each employer shall pay:

(1) to each employee who is subject to both the federal Act and this subtitle, at least the greater of:

(i) the minimum wage for that employee under the federal Act;

or

(ii) [a wage that equals a rate of \$6.15 per hour] THE STATE MINIMUM WAGE RATE SET UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION; and

(2) each other employee who is subject to this subtitle, at least:

(i) the greater of:

1. the highest minimum wage under the federal Act; or

2. [a wage that equals a rate of \$6.15 per hour] THE STATE MINIMUM WAGE RATE SET UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION; or

(ii) a training wage under regulations that the Commissioner adopts that include the conditions and limitations authorized under the federal Fair Labor Standards Amendments of 1989.

(c) (1) The STATE MINIMUM WAGE RATE IS:

(I) FOR THE 12-MONTH PERIOD BEGINNING JULY 1, 2014, \$8.20 PER HOUR;

(II) FOR THE 12-MONTH PERIOD BEGINNING JULY 1, 2015, \$9.15 PER HOUR;

(III) FOR THE 12-MONTH PERIOD BEGINNING JULY 1, 2016, \$10.10 PER HOUR; AND

(IV) FOR THE 12-MONTH PERIOD BEGINNING JULY 1, 2017, AND EACH SUBSEQUENT 12-MONTH PERIOD, THE RATE DETERMINED AND ANNOUNCED BY THE COMMISSIONER UNDER PARAGRAPH (2)(II) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

(2) (I) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (III) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, FOR THE 12-MONTH PERIOD BEGINNING JULY 1, 2017, AND EACH SUBSEQUENT 12-MONTH PERIOD, THE STATE MINIMUM WAGE RATE SHALL BE INCREASED BY THE AMOUNT, ROUNDED TO THE NEAREST CENT, THAT EQUALS THE PRODUCT OF:

1. THE STATE MINIMUM WAGE RATE IN EFFECT FOR THE PRECEDING 12-MONTH PERIOD; AND

2. THE ANNUAL PERCENTAGE GROWTH IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, AS DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSIONER UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (II)1 OF THIS PARAGRAPH.

(II) BEGINNING ON MARCH 1, 2017, AND EACH SUBSEQUENT MARCH 1, THE COMMISSIONER SHALL DETERMINE AND ANNOUNCE:

1. THE ANNUAL PERCENTAGE GROWTH, IF ANY, IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX BASED ON THE MOST RECENT 12-MONTH PERIOD FOR WHICH DATA IS AVAILABLE ON MARCH 1; AND

2. THE STATE MINIMUM WAGE RATE EFFECTIVE FOR THE 12-MONTH PERIOD BEGINNING ON THE FOLLOWING JULY 1.

(III) IF THERE IS A DECLINE OR NO GROWTH IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, THE STATE MINIMUM WAGE RATE SHALL REMAIN THE SAME AS THE RATE THAT WAS IN EFFECT FOR THE PRECEDING 12-MONTH PERIOD.

3-415.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, each employer shall pay an overtime wage of at least 1.5 times the usual hourly wage, computed in accordance with § 3-420 of this subtitle.

(b) This section does not apply to an employer that is:

(1) subject to 49 U.S.C. § 10501;

[(2) an establishment that is a hotel or motel;

(3) an establishment that is a restaurant;

(4) considered a gasoline service station because the employer is engaged primarily in selling gasoline and lubricating oil, even if the employer sells other merchandise or performs minor repair work;

(5) a bona fide private country club;

(6) a not for profit entity and is engaged primarily in providing temporary at-home care services, such as companionship or delivery of prepared meals, to aged or sick individuals, individuals with disabilities, or individuals with a mental disorder;]

(2) A MOTION PICTURE OR DRIVE-IN THEATER;

[(7)] **(3)** a not for profit concert promoter, legitimate theater, music festival, music pavilion, or theatrical show; or

[(8)] **(4)** an amusement or recreational establishment, including a swimming pool, if the establishment:

(i) operates for no more than 7 months in a calendar year; or

(ii) for any 6 months during the preceding calendar year, has average receipts in excess of one-third of the average receipts for the other 6 months.

3-419.

(a) (1) This section applies to each employee who:

(i) is engaged in an occupation in which the employee customarily and regularly receives more than \$30 each month in tips;

(ii) has been informed by the employer about the provisions of this section; and

(iii) has kept all of the tips that the employee received.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1)(iii) of this subsection, this section does not prohibit the pooling of tips.

(b) Subject to the limitations in this section, an employer may include, as part of the wage of an employee to whom this section applies:

(1) an amount that the employer sets to represent the tips of the employee; or

(2) if the employee or representative of the employee satisfies the Commissioner that the employee received a lesser amount in tips, the lesser amount.

(c) The tip credit amount that the employer may include under subsection (b) of this section may not exceed **[50%] 30%** of the minimum wage established under § 3-413 of this subtitle for the employee.

3-420.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, an employer shall compute the wage for overtime under § 3-415 of this subtitle on the basis of each hour over 40 hours that an employee works during 1 workweek.

(b) Notwithstanding **[§ 3-415(b)(8)] § 3-415(B)(3)** of this subtitle, an employer that is not a not for profit organization and is a concert promoter, legitimate theater, music festival, music pavilion, or theatrical show shall pay overtime for a craft or trade employee as required in subsection (a) of this section.

(c) The wage for overtime may be computed on the basis of each hour over **[60] 48** hours that an employee works during 1 workweek:

(1) for an employee who:

[(1)] (I) is engaged in agriculture; and

[(2)] (II) is exempt from the overtime provisions of the federal Act~~].~~

[(d)] The wage for overtime may be computed on the basis of each hour over 48 hours that an employee works during 1 workweek~~]; AND~~

[(1)] (2) for an employee of a bowling establishment~~]; and~~

(2) for an employee of an institution that:

(i) is not a hospital; but

(ii) is engaged primarily in the care of individuals who:

1. are aged, intellectually disabled, or sick or have a mental disorder; and

2. reside at the institution].

3-427.

(a) If an employer pays an employee less than the wage required under this subtitle, the employee may bring an action against the employer to recover:

(1) the difference between the wage paid to the employee and the wage required under this subtitle;

(2) **AN ADDITIONAL AMOUNT EQUAL TO THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE WAGE PAID TO THE EMPLOYEE AND THE WAGE REQUIRED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE AS LIQUIDATED DAMAGES; AND**

(3) **COUNSEL FEES AND OTHER COSTS.**

(b) On the written request of an employee who is entitled to bring an action under this section, the Commissioner may:

(1) take an assignment of the claim in trust for the employee;

(2) ask the Attorney General to bring an action in accordance with this section on behalf of the employee; and

(3) consolidate 2 or more claims against an employer.

(c) The agreement of an employee to work for less than the wage to which the employee is entitled under this subtitle is not a defense to an action under this section.

(d) (1) If a court determines that an employee is entitled to recovery in an action under this section, the court [may allow against the employer] **SHALL AWARD TO THE EMPLOYEE:**

(I) **THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE WAGE PAID TO THE EMPLOYEE AND THE WAGE REQUIRED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE;**

(II) **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, AN ADDITIONAL AMOUNT EQUAL TO THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE WAGE PAID TO THE EMPLOYEE AND THE WAGE REQUIRED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE AS LIQUIDATED DAMAGES; AND**

(III) reasonable counsel fees and other costs.

(2) IF AN EMPLOYER SHOWS TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE COURT THAT THE EMPLOYER ACTED IN GOOD FAITH AND REASONABLY BELIEVED THAT THE WAGES PAID TO THE EMPLOYEE WERE NOT LESS THAN THE WAGE REQUIRED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE, THE COURT MAY:

(I) DETERMINE THAT LIQUIDATED DAMAGES SHOULD NOT BE AWARDED; OR

(II) AWARD, AS LIQUIDATED DAMAGES, ANY AMOUNT LESS THAN THE AMOUNT SPECIFIED IN PARAGRAPH (1)(II) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2014.