

# SENATE BILL 591

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CF 3lr2992

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By: **Senator Smith**

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2023

Assigned to: Finance

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Labor and Employment – Noncompete and Conflict of Interest Provisions –**  
3 **Application of Prohibition**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the application of the prohibition on including a noncompete  
5 or conflict of interest provision in an employment contract or similar document or  
6 agreement that restricts the ability of an employee to enter into employment with a  
7 new employer or to become self-employed in the same or similar business or trade;  
8 and generally relating to noncompete and conflict of interest provisions.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
10 Article – Labor and Employment  
11 Section 3–413(c) and (d)  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
15 Article – Labor and Employment  
16 Section 3–716  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (2016 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

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

21 **Article – Labor and Employment**

22 3–413.

23 (c) (1) Subject to § 3–413.1 of this subtitle and except as provided in paragraph  
24 (2) of this subsection, the State minimum wage rate is:

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 (i) for the 12-month period beginning July 1, 2017, \$9.25 per hour;
- 2 (ii) for the 18-month period beginning July 1, 2018, \$10.10 per hour;
- 3 (iii) for the 12-month period beginning January 1, 2020, \$11.00 per  
4 hour;
- 5 (iv) for the 12-month period beginning January 1, 2021, \$11.75 per  
6 hour;
- 7 (v) for the 12-month period beginning January 1, 2022, \$12.50 per  
8 hour;
- 9 (vi) for the 12-month period beginning January 1, 2023, \$13.25 per  
10 hour;
- 11 (vii) for the 12-month period beginning January 1, 2024, \$14.00 per  
12 hour; and
- 13 (viii) beginning January 1, 2025, \$15.00 per hour.

14 (2) Subject to § 3-413.1 of this subtitle, the State minimum wage rate for  
15 a small employer is:

- 16 (i) for the 18-month period beginning July 1, 2018, \$10.10 per hour;
- 17 (ii) for the 12-month period beginning January 1, 2020, \$11.00 per  
18 hour;
- 19 (iii) for the 12-month period beginning January 1, 2021, \$11.60 per  
20 hour;
- 21 (iv) for the 12-month period beginning January 1, 2022, \$12.20 per  
22 hour;
- 23 (v) for the 12-month period beginning January 1, 2023, \$12.80 per  
24 hour;
- 25 (vi) for the 12-month period beginning January 1, 2024, \$13.40 per  
26 hour;
- 27 (vii) for the 12-month period beginning January 1, 2025, \$14.00 per  
28 hour;
- 29 (viii) for the 6-month period beginning January 1, 2026, \$14.60 per  
30 hour; and

1 (ix) beginning July 1, 2026, \$15.00 per hour.

2 (d) An employer may pay an employee a wage that equals a rate of 85% of the  
3 State minimum wage established under this section if the employee is under the age of 18  
4 years.

5 3–716.

6 (a) (1) This section applies:

7 (i) to an employment contract or a similar document or agreement  
8 concerning an employee who earns equal to or less than[:

9 1. \$15 per hour; or

10 2. \$31,200 annually] **150% OF THE STATE MINIMUM**  
11 **WAGE RATE ESTABLISHED UNDER § 3–413 OF THIS TITLE**; and

12 (ii) whether or not the employer and employee entered into the  
13 employment contract or similar document or agreement in the State.

14 (2) This section does not apply to an employment contract or a similar  
15 document or agreement with respect to the taking or use of a client list or other proprietary  
16 client–related information.

17 (b) A noncompete or conflict of interest provision in an employment contract or a  
18 similar document or agreement that restricts the ability of an employee to enter into  
19 employment with a new employer or to become self–employed in the same or similar  
20 business or trade shall be null and void as being against the public policy of the State.

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
22 October 1, 2023.