

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 579 - SB 659

February 24, 2015

SUMMARY OF BILL: Enacts the Tennessee Minimum Wage Act that establishes an hourly minimum wage in Tennessee for employers as defined by the bill, which shall be the greater of the federal minimum wage or, on and after July 1, 2015, no less than \$8.15; on and after July 1, 2016, no less than \$9.60; and on and after July 1, 2017, no less than \$10.10 per hour or one-half of one percent rounded to the nearest whole cent more than the highest federal minimum wage, whichever is greater, except as may otherwise be established in accordance with this bill. Establishes a minimum hourly wage for employees in the hotel, motel, tourist, and restaurant industries who customarily and regularly receive more than \$30.00 a month in tips at \$4.74 per hour. Establishes a minimum hourly wage for employees who are compensated by way of gratuities at \$6.15 per hour; provided the sum of wages and gratuities received by the person shall equal or exceed the minimum wage rate established by the bill. States that the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development (DLWD) will be required to cooperate with the Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division of the United States Department of Labor.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- The Department of Human Resources (DOHR) reports that the bill has no impact on DOHR or state employees and only encompasses private employers.
- Based on the information provided by DOHR, the provisions of this bill do not apply to state or local government as an employer.
- Based on the information provided by DLWD, any increase in state expenditures for the department to (1) determine the reasonable cost of wages for the employer of furnishing meals or lodging to an employee, (2) cooperate to the fullest extent with the Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division of the U.S. Department of Labor, and (3) for promulgating rules to effectuate the purposes of this bill for consistency with the federal Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, is estimated to be not significant.
- Based on information provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts, any increase in the number of court cases can be accommodated within existing resources without an additional appropriation or a reduced reversion.
- Any other fiscal impact to this bill will occur between private parties.

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IMPACT TO COMMERCE:

Other Commerce Impact – Potential increased wage expenditures for private businesses. Or conversely, potential reductions in work hours for employees of private businesses. The extent of any changes in private business pay or work hours cannot be determined because such impacts are dependent upon multiple unknown factors.

Assumption:

- This bill could increase wage expenditures for private businesses. Any such impact is dependent upon several unknown factors, including but not limited to, the number of private businesses that currently pay employees less than minimum wage as defined by the bill, the extent to which any such employer is paying less than the minimum wage, the extent to which any such business will increase wages for employees earning less than the minimum wage, and the timing of any such wage increases. Due to the extent of unknown factors, a precise impact to commerce cannot be determined.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Jeffrey L. Spalding, Executive Director

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