Introduced by Senators Sirotkin, Ingram, Ayer, Balint, Baruth, Brooks, Clarkson, Cummings, Lyons, MacDonald, McCormack, Pearson, Pollina, and White

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Labor; employment practices; minimum wages

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to increase the minimum wage so that it reaches $15.00 per hour by January 1, 2022.

An act relating to increasing the minimum wage

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 21 V.S.A. § 384 is amended to read:

§ 384. EMPLOYMENT; WAGES

(a)(1) An employer shall not employ any employee at a rate of less than $9.15. Beginning January 1, 2016, an employer shall not employ any employee at a rate of less than $9.60. Beginning January 1, 2017, an employer shall not employ any employee at a rate of less than $10.00. Beginning on January 1, 2018, an employer shall not employ any employee at a rate of less than $10.50, and beginning January 1, 2019, an employer shall not employ any employee at a rate of less than $11.50. Beginning on
January 1, 2020, an employer shall not employ any employee at a rate of less than $12.50. Beginning on January 1, 2021, an employer shall not employ any employee at a rate of less than $13.50. Beginning on January 1, 2022, an employer shall not employ any employee at a rate of less than $15.00, and on each subsequent January 1, the minimum wage rate shall be increased by five percent or the percentage increase of the Consumer Price Index, CPI-U, U.S. city average, not seasonally adjusted, or successor index, as calculated by the U.S. Department of Labor or successor agency for the 12 months preceding the previous September 1, whichever is smaller, but in no event shall the minimum wage be decreased. The minimum wage shall be rounded off to the nearest $0.01.

(2) An employer in the hotel, motel, tourist place, and restaurant industry shall not employ a service or tipped employee at a basic wage rate less than one-half the minimum wage established pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection. As used in this subsection, “a service or tipped employee” means an employee of a hotel, motel, tourist place, or restaurant who customarily and regularly receives more than $120.00 per month in tips for direct and personal customer service.

(3) If the minimum wage rate established by the U.S. government is greater than the rate established for Vermont for any year, the minimum wage rate for that year shall be the rate established by the U.S. government.
Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.