

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1965 Session of
2005

INTRODUCED BY GEORGE, BEBKO-JONES, BELARDI, BELFANTI, BLACKWELL,
CALTAGIRONE, CURRY, FABRIZIO, FREEMAN, GOODMAN, GRUCELA,
HERMAN, JAMES, JOSEPHS, KENNEY, LaGROTTA, LEACH, LEDERER,
LEVANSKY, MANDERINO, PISTELLA, SHANER, STABACK, SURRA,
WALKO, YOUNGBLOOD AND YUDICHAK, SEPTEMBER 26, 2005

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON LABOR RELATIONS, SEPTEMBER 26, 2005

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of January 17, 1968 (P.L.11, No.5), entitled
2 "An act establishing a fixed minimum wage and overtime rates
3 for employes, with certain exceptions; providing for minimum
4 rates for learners and apprentices; creating a Minimum Wage
5 Advisory Board and defining its powers and duties; conferring
6 powers and imposing duties upon the Department of Labor and
7 Industry; imposing duties on employers; and providing
8 penalties," further providing for minimum wages; and
9 providing for health insurance plan.

10 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
11 hereby enacts as follows:

12 Section 1. Section 4(a) of the act of January 17, 1968
13 (P.L.11, No.5), known as The Minimum Wage Act of 1968, amended
14 December 15, 1988 (P.L.1232, No.150), is amended to read:

15 Section 4. Minimum Wages.--Except as may otherwise be
16 provided under this act:

17 (a) Every employer shall pay to each of his employes wages
18 for all hours worked at a rate of not less than:

19 (1) Two dollars sixty-five cents (\$2.65) an hour upon the
20 effective date of this amendment.

(2) Two dollars ninety cents (\$2.90) an hour during the year beginning January 1, 1979.

(3) Three dollars ten cents (\$3.10) an hour during the year beginning January 1, 1980.

(4) Three dollars thirty-five cents (\$3.35) an hour after December 31, 1980.

(5) Three dollars seventy cents (\$3.70) an hour beginning February 1, 1989[, and thereafter].

(6) Seven dollars (\$7.00) an hour beginning July 1, 2006, and thereafter. Any employee working thirty hours or more each week may choose to contribute eighty-five cents (\$.85) an hour toward an employer-provided health insurance plan.

* * *

Section 2. The act is amended by adding a section to read:
Section 4.1. Health Insurance Plan.

(a) Every employer shall offer employees working thirty hours or more each week the option to enroll in an employer-sponsored health insurance plan. The employer-sponsored health insurance plan shall be paid for by a combination of employee contribution as provided for in section 4(a)(6) and a matching contribution by the Commonwealth.

(b) The department shall promulgate appropriate regulations to allow participating employers to apply for and receive a matching contribution by the Commonwealth for each employee who elects to participate in the health insurance plan.

(c) The matching contributions by the Commonwealth shall be funded through the Master Settlement Agreement relating to tobacco litigation entered into in 1998 by the Commonwealth and leading United States tobacco product manufacturers.

Section 3. This act shall take effect immediately.