

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1940 Session of
1999

INTRODUCED BY SURRA, BELFANTI, TIGUE, STABACK, VEON, WALKO,
FRANKEL, DALEY, MICHLOVIC, DeWEESE, BEBKO-JONES, BELARDI,
MELIO, M. COHEN, GIGLIOTTI, HARHAI, SOLOBAY, MARKOSEK,
FREEMAN, THOMAS, PISTELLA, JOSEPHS, SHANER, VAN HORNE,
TRELLO, ROONEY, GRUCELA, RAMOS, YOUNGBLOOD AND YUDICHAK,
OCTOBER 12, 1999

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON LABOR RELATIONS, OCTOBER 12, 1999

AN ACT

1 Providing a meal or rest period for employees after working a
2 specified number of hours.

3 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
4 hereby enacts as follows:

5 Section 1. Short title.

6 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Rest Period
7 for Workers Act.

8 Section 2. Five-hour work periods, 30-minute meal or 30-minute
9 rest periods between work periods.

10 (a) General rule.--No individual shall be employed or
11 permitted to work for more than five hours continuously in or in
12 connection with any establishment without a meal or rest period
13 of at least 30 minutes, which period shall not be considered a
14 part of the hours of labor, and no period of less than 30
15 minutes shall be deemed to interrupt a continuous period of
16 work.

1 (b) Location of meal and rest periods.--No employee shall be
2 required to remain in a workroom or at the employee's work
3 station during the meal or rest periods required by this
4 section, provided, however, that where the strict application of
5 the 30-minute meal or 30-minute rest periods impose an
6 unnecessary hardship on an employer and the employee or a
7 limitation on the job opportunities of an employee, the
8 Secretary of Labor and Industry may grant upon written
9 application of the employer an exception from compliance with
10 this section.

11 Section 3. Applicability.

12 This act shall not apply to employers who are:

13 (1) bound by the terms of a collective bargaining
14 agreement which provides for meals or rest periods; or

15 (2) police and fire departments, public ambulance or
16 providers of emergency medical services.

17 Section 4. Effective date.

18 This act shall take effect immediately.