

HB 1433 -- Minimum Wage

Sponsor: Bowman

This bill changes the laws regarding Missouri's minimum wage. The bill requires that every employee in Missouri be paid at least a "living wage" which is defined as compensation sufficient to maintain conditions consistent with the employee's welfare.

The bill specifies that the minimum wage for an employee after August 28, 2006, will be \$6.50 per hour except for certain amounts that may be deducted from the wage of the employee for meals and/or lodging furnished by the employer as compensation. The required minimum wage amount varies depending upon the type of employment, employee's age, inclusion of employer-provided meals and/or lodging offsets, and effective dates.

Beginning in 2008, minimum wage amounts will be adjusted annually based on the rate of inflation as reported by the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics. The adjusted minimum wage becomes effective on March 1 of each year. The Department of Labor and Industrial Relations is required to annually post the adjusted minimum wage on its web site.

The exemption for agricultural labor from minimum wage requirements is repealed.