

SENATE NO. 1092

AN ACT INCREASING THE MINIMUM WAGE

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled,
And by the authority of the same, as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. Chapter 151 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out section 1, as
2 appearing in the 2004 Official Edition, and inserting in place thereof the following three subsections:-
3 Section 1. (a) It is hereby declared to be against public policy for any employer to employ any person
4 in an occupation in this commonwealth at an oppressive and unreasonable wage as defined in section
5 2, and any contract, agreement or understanding for or in relation to such employment shall be null
6 and void. An hourly wage of less than the minimum wage specified in subsection (b), in any
7 occupation, as defined in this chapter, shall conclusively be presumed to be oppressive and
8 unreasonable, wherever the term “minimum wage” is used in this chapter, unless the commissioner has
9 expressly approved or shall expressly approve the establishment and payment of a lesser wage under
10 sections 7 and 9. In no case shall the minimum wage rate be less than \$0.10 higher than the effective
11 federal minimum rate.
- 12 (b) The minimum wage shall be \$8.46 per hour, adjusted for inflation each year as specified in
13 subsection (c).

14 (c) On September 30 of each year, the commissioner shall calculate and announce the
15 percentage change in the national consumer price index for all urban consumers as prepared by
16 the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, or its successor index, for the most recent 12-
17 month period for which such data are available. On January 1 of each calendar year, the
18 minimum wage shall be the minimum wage in effect on September 30 of the previous calendar
19 year increased by the percentage change in the consumer price index as calculated by the
20 commissioner. In no instance shall the increase be less than zero.

21 SECTION 2. Section 2 of said chapter 151, as appearing in the 2004 Official Edition, is hereby
22 amended by inserting after the definition of "Department" the following definition:-

23 "Employer", an individual, corporation, partnership, labor organization, the commonwealth, a
24 political subdivision thereof, including a city, town, county, or other governmental entity authorized or
25 created by state law, including a public corporation or authority, or any other legal business, public or
26 private, or commercial entity, including agents of the employer.

27 SECTION 3. The third paragraph of section 7 of said chapter 151, as so appearing, is hereby amended
28 by striking out clause (1) and inserting in place thereof the following clause:- (1) 50 per cent of the
29 minimum wage under subsection (b) of section 1.

30 SECTION 4. This law shall take effect on January 1, 2008.

