



## SENATE MAJORITY OFFICE

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### NEWS RELEASE

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#### **Minimum wage bill passes committee and goes to the Senate floor**

*New law would improve quality of life for Oregonians struggling to get by*

SALEM – Oregon Senate Democrats have taken action to improve the lives of working Oregonians – especially those living paycheck to paycheck – today by advancing a bill that will raise Oregon’s minimum wage. Democrats voted to pass Senate Bill 1532 out of the Senate Workforce Committee by a 3-2 vote.

“We learned a lot from the testimony we heard from workers and businesses all around the state and we used that input to craft a bill that does a lot of good for working Oregonians,” Sen. Michael Dembrow (D-Portland) said. “I’m proud to be able to carry this bill on the Senate floor.”

It would raise the minimum wage gradually over six years to three different levels, based on geographic areas, which include the following:

- Workers within Portland’s Urban Growth Boundary would see their wages increase to \$14.75 by 2022;
- Those working in Malheur, Lake, Harney, Wheeler, Sherman, Gilliam, Wallowa, Grant, Jefferson, Baker, Union, Crook, Klamath, Douglas, Coos, Curry, Umatilla and Morrow counties would earn \$12.50 by 2022; and
- Employees in Benton, Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Deschutes, Hood River, Jackson, Josephine, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Tillamook, Wasco, Washington and Yamhill counties would earn \$13.50 per hour by 2022.

After 2022, the wage for workers throughout most of Eastern Oregon and Coos, Curry and Douglas counties would serve as the base and increase annually based on the Consumer Price Index. Areas with the lowest minimum wage would be \$1 below the adjusted base rate and those in the Portland metro area would earn \$1.25 more than the base. With the high cost of living in urban parts of the state, this bill will give struggling Oregonians the economic boost they need to make ends meet while taking into account the economic realities of rural Oregon.

The non-urban counties with the lowest minimum wage were selected using county-level demographic analysis data. The standard defines the amount of income necessary to meet the basic needs of Oregon families, differentiated by family size, composition and location. It takes into account basic needs including housing, childcare, food, transportation, health care and miscellaneous items like clothing.

“Oregon has a long and proud history when it comes to the minimum wage,” Sen. Diane Rosenbaum (D-Portland) said. “We were the first state in the nation to have a statewide minimum wage. Those who make minimum wage are the people who grow our food and take care of our children. No one who works at these vital jobs should be forced to live in poverty; these workers deserve a raise.”

Senate Bill 1532 now moves to the Senate floor for a vote next week.

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