Supporters praise legislature's passage of minimum wage bill

Posted by Dick.Myers_Editor On 04/07/2014

The Maryland General Assembly today passed legislation to raise the state’s minimum wage to $10.10 per hour by 2018. The bill was passed by the House of Delegates in March 89 to 46 and cleared the Senate on April 5 by a vote of 34 to 13. Today’s final concurrence vote in the House of Delegates was 87 to 47. A top priority of Maryland Governor Martin O’Malley, he is expected to sign the bill quickly after session ends. This is the first time that a minimum wage bill has been passed by the Maryland General Assembly since 2006.

“Raising Maryland’s minimum wage is a huge win for the hundreds of thousands of workers across the state who will get a raise, as well as the businesses and communities that will experience increased economic activity because of higher wages,” said Ricarra Jones, chair of Raise Maryland. “Over the last 16 months, Raise Maryland’s campaign and strategy has successfully moved lawmakers and votes to achieve this progressive and meaningful raise for workers.”

A diverse coalition of community, labor, immigrant, civil rights and faith organizations, Raise Maryland is a Maryland Working Families campaign, founded in January 2013 by bringing together organizations and individuals united to pass a statewide minimum wage increase.

"My central focus as Governor of Maryland has been to strengthen and grow the ranks of our ever more diverse and upwardly mobile middle class," said Governor O'Malley. "This year, we are building on this record of strengthening the middle class by raising Maryland’s minimum wage to $10.10. We worked hard to bring people together and forge the consensus necessary to make this important progress possible. I commend the General Assembly for giving so many Maryland families the raise they deserve."

The bill that will be signed by Gov. O’Malley will raise the wage from the current $7.25 an hour to $8.00 in January 1, 2015, and rise again to $8.25 on July 1, 2015. Workers will get subsequent raises to $8.75 on July 1, 2016 and $9.25 on July 1, 2017. The full-phase in to $10.10 will take place on July 1, 2018.

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