

# MINIMUM WAGE LAW SUMMARY

MUST BE POSTED IN A CONSPICUOUS PLACE IN EVERY PENNSYLVANIA BUSINESS GOVERNED BY THE MINIMUM WAGE ACT

## Minimum Wage Rate

**\$7.25 per hour  
Effective  
July 24, 2009**

(Except as Described)

## Overtime Rate

Workers shall be paid  
1½ times their regular rate  
of pay after 40 hours worked  
in a workweek

(Except as Described)

The Pennsylvania Minimum Wage Act establishes a fixed Minimum Wage and Overtime Rate for employees. It also sets forth compliance-related duties for the Department of Labor & Industry and for employers. In addition, the Minimum Wage Act provides penalties for noncompliance. This summary is for general information only and is not an official position formally adopted by the Department of Labor & Industry.

### TIPPED EMPLOYEES:

An employer may pay a minimum of \$2.83 per hour to an employee who makes \$30.00 per month in tips. The employer must make up the difference if the tips and \$2.83 do not meet the regular Pennsylvania minimum wage.

### KEEPING RECORDS:

Every employer must maintain accurate records of each employee's earnings and hours worked, and provide access to Labor & Industry.

### PENALTIES:

Failure to pay the legal minimum wage or other violations may result in payment of back wages and other civil or criminal action where warranted.

### EXEMPTIONS:

Overtime applies to certain employment classifications. (see pages 2 and 3)

### SPECIAL ALLOWANCES FOR:

Students, learners and people with disabilities, upon application only.

# EXEMPTIONS FROM BOTH Minimum Wage and Overtime Rates

- Labor on a farm
- Domestic service in or about the private home of the employer
- Delivery of newspapers to the consumer
- Publication of weekly, semi-weekly or daily newspaper with a circulation of less than 4,000 when the major portion of circulation is in the county where published or a bordering county
- Bona fide executive, administrative or professional capacity, (including academic administrative personnel or teacher in public schools) or in capacity of outside salesman. However, an employee of a retail or service establishment shall not be excluded from the definition of employee employed in a bona fide executive or administrative capacity because of the number of hours in the employee's work not directly or closely related to the performance of executive, professional or administrative activities, if less than 40% of the employee's hours worked in the workweek are devoted to such activities
- Educational, charitable, religious, or nonprofit organization where no employer-employee relationship exists and service is rendered gratuitously
- Golf caddy
- In seasonal employment, if the employee is under 18 years of age or if a student under 24 years of age is employed by a nonprofit health or welfare agency engaged in activities dealing with children with disabilities or by a nonprofit day or resident seasonal recreational camp for campers under the age of 18 years, which operates for a period of less than three months in any one year
- In employment by a public amusement or recreational establishment, organized camp, or religious or nonprofit educational conference center, if (i) it does not operate more than seven months a year or (ii) during the preceding calendar year, the average receipts for any 6 months were not more than 33% of its average receipts for the other 6 months of such year
- Switchboard operator employed by an independently-owned public telephone company which has no more than 750 stations
- Employees not subject to civil service laws who hold elective office or are on the personal staff of such an officeholder, or are appointed by the officeholder to serve on a policy making level

## ALLOWANCES

Wages paid to any employee may include reasonable cost of board, lodging and other facilities. This may be considered as part of the minimum wage if the employee is notified of this condition and accepts it as a usual condition of employment at the time of hire or change of classification. The wages, including food credit plus tips, must equal the current minimum wage.

**Board:** Food furnished in the form of meals on an established schedule.

**Lodging:** Housing facility available for the personal use of the employee at all hours.

**Reasonable Cost:** Actual cost, exclusive of profit, to the employer or to anyone affiliated with the employer.

## EXCEPTIONS from Minimum Wage Rates

- Learners and students (bona fide high school or college), after obtaining a Special Certificate from the Bureau of Labor Law Compliance, (651 Boas Street, Room 1301, Harrisburg, PA 17121-0750) may be paid 85% of the minimum wage as follows:  
  
Learners: 40 hours a week. Maximum eight weeks  
  
Students: Up to 20 hours a week. Up to 40 hours a week during school vacation periods
- Individuals with a physical or mental deficiency or injury may be paid less than the applicable minimum wage if a license specifying a rate commensurate with productive capacity is obtained from the Bureau of Labor Law Compliance, (651 Boas Street, Room 1301, Harrisburg, PA 17121-0750), or a federal certificate is obtained under Section 14(c) of the Fair Labor Standards Act from the U.S. Department of Labor

## EXEMPTIONS from Overtime Rates

- A seaman
- Any salesman, partsman or mechanic primarily engaged in selling and servicing automobiles, trailers, trucks, farm implements or aircraft, if employed by a non-manufacturing establishment primarily engaged in the selling of such vehicles to ultimate purchasers. (Example: 51% of business is selling as opposed to 49% in servicing such vehicles)
- Taxicab driver
- Any employee of a motor carrier the Federal Secretary of Transportation has power to establish qualifications and maximum hours of service under 49 U.S.C. Section 3102 (b)(1) and (2) (relating to requirements for qualifications, hours of service, safety and equipment standards)
- Any employee engaged in the processing of maple sap into sugar (other than refined sugar) or syrup
- Employment by a motion picture theatre
- Announcer, news editor, chief engineer of a radio or television station, the major studio of which is located in:
- City or town of 100,000 population or less, if it is not part of a standard metropolitan statistical area having a total population in excess of 100,000; or
- City or town of 25,000 population or less, which is part of such an area but is at least 40 airline miles from the principal city in the area
- The hours of an employee of an air carrier subject to the provisions of Title II of the Railway Labor Act (Public Law 69-257, 44 Stat. 577, 45 U.S.C. § 181 et seq.) when:
  - the hours are voluntarily worked by the employee pursuant to a shift-trading practice under which the employee has the opportunity to reduce hours worked in any workweek by voluntarily offering a shift for trade or reassignment; or
  - the required hours of work, wages and overtime compensation have been agreed to either in a collective bargaining agreement between the employer and labor organization representing employees for purposes of collective bargaining or pursuant to a voluntary agreement or understanding arrived at between the employer and employee

## QUESTIONS/COMPLAINTS

### CONTACT:

Bureau of Labor Law Compliance  
Altoona District Office  
1130 12th Avenue  
Suite 200  
Altoona, PA 16601-3486  
Phone: **814-940-6224** or **877-792-8198**

Bureau of Labor Law Compliance  
Harrisburg District Office  
651 Boas Street, Room 1301  
Harrisburg, PA 17121-0750  
Phone: **717-787-4671** or **800-932-0665**

Bureau of Labor Law Compliance  
Philadelphia District Office  
110 North 8th St., Suite 203  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
Phone: **215-560-1858** or **877-817-9497**

Bureau of Labor Law Compliance  
Pittsburgh District Office  
301 5th Avenue, Suite 330  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222  
Phone: **412-565-5300** or **877-504-8354**

Bureau of Labor Law Compliance  
Scranton District Office  
201-B State Office Bldg.  
100 Lackawanna Avenue  
Scranton, PA 18503  
Phone: **570-963-4577** or **877-214-3962**

### COUNTIES SERVED:

Armstrong	Clinton	Jefferson
Bedford	Elk	McKean
Blair	Fayette	Mifflin
Cambria	Forest	Potter
Cameron	Fulton	Somerset
Centre	Huntingdon	Warren
Clarion	Indiana	Westmoreland
Clearfield		

Adams	Juniata
Columbia	Lancaster
Cumberland	Lebanon
Dauphin	Montour
Franklin	

Bucks
Chester
Delaware
Montgomery
Philadelphia

Allegheny	Greene
Beaver	Lawrence
Butler	Mercer
Crawford	Venango
Erie	Washington

Berks	Lycoming	Sullivan
Bradford	Monroe	Susquehanna
Carbon	Northampton	Tioga
Lackawanna	Pike	Wayne
Lehigh	Schuylkill	Wyoming
Luzerne		

## MORE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ONLINE

Additional information about the Minimum Wage Act is available online at: [www.dli.pa.gov](http://www.dli.pa.gov).  
PA Keyword: Minimum Wage. From the Web site you can submit a complaint form, find answers to **frequently asked questions** and read more about the Minimum Wage Act.

*Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Equal Opportunity Employer/Program*