

5999

2013-2014 Regular Sessions

I N   S E N A T E

November 27, 2013

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Introduced by Sen. SQUADRON -- read twice and ordered printed, and when  
printed to be committed to the Committee on Rules

AN ACT in relation to enacting the New York fair wage act

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1     Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "New York  
2 fair wage act".  
3     S 2. For the purposes of this act, the term:  
4     A. "Business" means any natural person, corporation, partnership,  
5 limited liability company, joint venture, sole proprietorship, associ-  
6 ation, trust or any other entity.  
7     B. "Formula retail store" means a retail sales establishment which,  
8 along with eleven or more other retail sales establishments located in  
9 the United States, maintains two or more of the following features: (1)  
10 a standardized array of merchandise, a standardized facade, a standard-  
11 ized decor and color scheme, a uniform apparel, standardized signage, a  
12 trademark; or (2) a servicemark.  
13     C. "Subcontractor" means any business that performs services, includ-  
14 ing but not limited to janitorial or security services, on the premises  
15 of a formula retail store, that holds a sublease or contract authorizing  
16 that party to occupy, use, control or do business on the premises of the  
17 large retailer, or that performs construction work on premises that are  
18 or will be occupied by a large retailer.  
19     D. "Employee" includes not only common-law employees of a formula  
20 retail store who are regularly employed on or about the premises of a  
21 formula retail store, but also persons who regularly work on or about  
22 the premises of a formula retail store for the benefit of that retail-  
23 er's business, whether they are engaged as a contractor, subcontractor,  
24 tenant, subtenant, licensee or sublicensee, or as an employee thereof.  
25 Workers who are not common-law employees of a formula retail store shall  
26 not be deemed "regularly working" on or about the retailer's premises

EXPLANATION--Matter in *ITALICS* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[ ] is old law to be omitted.

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1 unless they spend an average of ten or more hours per week there for  
2 four or more weeks. "Employee" does not include any managerial or admin-  
3 istrative employees receiving more than \$50,000 per year in wages, sala-  
4 ry, bonus, commission or other compensation from a large retailer.

5 E. "Living wage rates" means:

6 (1) Beginning on the effective date of this act, the living wage rate  
7 shall be an hourly rate of \$15.

8 (2) No later than January 1 of each successive year, the living wage  
9 rate shall be increased in proportion to the increase during the preced-  
10 ing twelve months, if any, in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban  
11 Consumers in the New York state metropolitan statistical area, as  
12 published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States  
13 Department of Labor.

14 (3) The prorated hourly cost of any benefits that a formula retail  
15 store chooses to provide an employee may be credited toward payment of  
16 the minimum hourly compensation required under this act, provided that  
17 this provision shall not be construed as amending or superseding any  
18 other applicable state and federal wage laws.

19 F. "Benefits" means payments made by a formula retail store for any  
20 bona fide fringe benefits, paid directly to an employee or a third party  
21 on behalf of an employee or employee's family, such as benefits related  
22 to health care, retirement security, disability, training and education,  
23 or paid leave, but excluding any payments that are deducted from an  
24 employee's wages or otherwise reimbursed by an employee, or that are  
25 required by any federal, state or local law. A formula retail store may  
26 use any reasonable methodology for determining the hourly dollar value  
27 of any benefits provided and may, at its election, use each quarter,  
28 month or pay period as the relevant period for calculating the prorated  
29 hourly value of any benefits provided.

30 S 3. A. Formula retail stores shall provide employees an hourly  
31 compensation package with a value of no less than the living wage rate  
32 for each hour that the employee works on the premises of a formula  
33 retail store.

34 B. Formula retail stores shall be jointly and severally responsible  
35 for any violation of this act by a subcontractor of the formula retail  
36 store.

37 C. The provisions of this section may be waived by the written terms  
38 of a bona fide collective bargaining agreement.

39 S 4. A. By December 1 of each year, the state shall publish and make  
40 available to large retailers a bulletin announcing the adjusted living  
41 wage and benefits rate for the upcoming year, which shall take effect on  
42 January 1.

43 B. By December 1 of each year, the state shall publish and make avail-  
44 able to formula retail stores, in English and Spanish, and on-line, a  
45 notice suitable for posting by formula retail store in the workplace  
46 informing employees of the current living wage and benefits rate and of  
47 their rights under this act.

48 C. Every formula retail store shall post in a conspicuous place at any  
49 workplace or job site where an employee works the notice published each  
50 year by the agency informing employees of the current living wage and  
51 health care supplement rate and of their rights under this act. Every  
52 formula retail store shall post such notices in English and Spanish.

53 D. Formula retail stores shall retain payroll and benefits records  
54 pertaining to employees for a period of four years, and shall allow the  
55 agency access to such records to monitor compliance with the require-  
56 ments of this act. Formula retail stores shall permit an employee or an

1 employee's designated representative to inspect the formula retail  
2 store's payroll and benefits pertaining to the employee. Where a formula  
3 retail store does not maintain or retain adequate records documenting  
4 wages paid or does not allow the state reasonable access to such  
5 records, there shall be a rebuttable presumption that the formula retail  
6 store has not paid the living wage. This presumption may be overcome if  
7 the large retailer proves by clear and convincing evidence that the  
8 formula retail store has paid the living wage.  
9 S 5. This act shall take effect immediately.