



An Act relative to a state minimum wage for municipal employees

MTA Legislative Agenda, 2021-2022

Lead Sponsors: Sen. Mike Brady (D-Brockton) | Rep. Dave Rogers (D-Cambridge)

Legislation to ensure that municipal workers are covered by the state minimum wage law.

In 2018, working families across the Commonwealth won a huge victory when the Legislature passed a bill to raise the state's minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2023. According to Raise up Massachusetts, estimates are that increasing the minimum wage to \$15 will raise the wages of roughly 1 million workers.

Unfortunately, however, this benefit does not apply to municipal employees, including our public school educators. Consequently, many of these workers are forced to work three or more jobs to piece together enough money to pay for groceries, housing, heating, education for themselves and their families and other basic needs. This unjust loophole unfairly punishes many public employees and deprives them of the security of a livable working wage. Especially during this period of crisis, an increase in the minimum wage for municipal employees, many of whom are essential workers, is not only an economic issue but one of social justice as well.

This legislation will ensure that municipal employees are covered by the state minimum wage law, which is moving toward \$15 per hour by 2023.

Passing An Act relative to a state minimum wage for municipal employees means:

- Providing a more livable and respectable working wage to all Massachusetts employees.
- For employers, higher wages mean more efficient workers and less employee turnover, helping them save money on recruiting and retaining workers.
- Employees have more money in their pockets to spend in their community, thereby boosting the Commonwealth's overall economy.
- An important step towards reaching a true living wage for workers in the state.

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