

2017 -- S 0289

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

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A N A C T

RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS - MINIMUM WAGE

Introduced By: Senator Marc A. Cote

Date Introduced: February 15, 2017

Referred To: Senate Labor

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 28-12-3.1 of the General Laws in Chapter 28-12 entitled "Minimum
2 Wages" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **28-12-3.1. Wages for minors.**

4 (a) Every minor, fourteen (14) and fifteen (15) years of age shall be paid at a rate of not
5 less than seventy-five percent (75%) of the minimum wages as specified in § 28-12-3; provided,
6 every minor who works in excess of twenty-four (24) hours in any week shall be paid for all
7 hours worked in that week at the hourly rate provided by § 28-12-3 or § 28-12-5(e).

8 (b) Opportunity wage. Notwithstanding the other provisions of this chapter, during the
9 first six hundred eighty (680) hours or ninety (90) days of employment, an employer may pay an
10 employee, eighteen (18) years old or younger, a wage equal to seventy-five percent (75%) of the
11 minimum wage required under §28-12-3 or the minimum wage rate established by the Federal
12 Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, as amended (29 U.S.C. 201 et seq.), whichever is greater.

13 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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1 This act would allow employers to pay the greater or seventy-five percent (75%) of the
2 state minimum wage rate, or the federal minimum wage rate to employees eighteen (18) years or
3 younger during the first six hundred eighty (680) hours or ninety (90) days of their employment.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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