



AN ACT CONCERNING THE MINIMUM FAIR WAGE AND EMPLOYEES WHO CUSTOMARILY AND REGULARLY RECEIVE GRATUITIES. Raised S.B. No. 39

Connecticut has always prided itself as a fair, progressive, and innovative state. As one of the most expensive and taxed state in the United States, the state of Connecticut owes its citizens fair and just measures, of being able to earn a livable wage. This would be achieved if tipped workers in Connecticut, are able to earn the minimum wage, along with the few tips they may receive.

According to Connecticut law, if a tipped worker receives at least \$30 in tips per month, their employers are required to pay them \$6.07 per hour, if they are classified as wait staff. For bartenders, it is \$7.82 an hour. This is not enough to survive on. There is misconception that tipped workers regularly earns so much money from tips, that it is pointless for an employer to pay them minimum wage. However, many tipped workers barely make money on weekdays, and often have to rely on weekends to make any money, which is not a guarantee.

When it comes to tipped workers, people often think that they are only bartenders, waiters and waitresses. However, parking attendants, wheelchair attendants at the airport, car wash workers, food delivery people and nail salon workers are also classified as tipped workers. According to the National Employment Law Project (NELP), in the United States, 2/3 of tipped workers are women, over 87% of all tipped workers are 20 or older, and almost 63% of them are 25 and older. The idea that a teenager is the typical tipped worker, is simply not true. This may have been the case 35 years ago, but it certainly is not the case now.

Given the severity of 2008 recession, and its continued effects on the economy, many people still have trouble finding a job. As a result, they have no choice but to take low paying jobs. However, often times, these adults will have to work two to three jobs, in order to make ends meet.

Submitted by

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