

Labor and Public Employees Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6551

AN ACT CONCERNING STANDARD WAGES FOR CERTAIN SERVICE

Title: WORKERS AND PAID LEAVE.

Vote Date: 2/16/2023

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 1/31/2023

File No.:

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

SPONSORS OF BILL:

Labor and Public Employees Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

The purpose of this bill is to clarify Connecticut's standard wage law by adding certain provisions to state statute that would give the Department of Labor a clearer way to enforce the law. It also establishes provisions to ensure employees are more aware of the standard wage laws and can report standard wage violations committed by their employer. These provisions would make it easier to ensure that employees covered under standard wage laws would not be underpaid.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

No response provided from the administration or relevant state agencies.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Ed Hawthorne, President, Connecticut AFL-CIO: Supported this bill as it makes improvements and clarification to existing law. He stated that the bill would add several clarifications that helps an employee receive their deserved compensation from their employer.

Aziz Dehkan, Executive Director, Connecticut Roundtable on Climate and Jobs:

Supported this bill as it clarifies and strengthens the existing standard wage law and ensures that contractors aren't competing based on who can exploit workers the most. He further stated that it is also important that the bill includes security services in building services, and add requested that paid leave be added to the required fringe benefits to be included in the

calculation of standard wage. He stated that these clarifications are critical to effective enforcement of standard wage.

Rochelle Palache, District Director and Vice President, 32BJ-SEIU: Supported this bill on the grounds that it makes important changes to Connecticut's standard wage to clarify certain ambiguous points in the law and codifies existing practices. She stated that it will also make it easier for the Department of Labor to enforce standard wage.

Joey Flowers, Food Service Worker, 32BJ-SEIU: Supported this bill because he claimed that he and his coworkers are denied wages that they are entitled to by law, and that this bill will fix that problem.

Rosa Franco, Food Service Worker, 32BJ-SEIU: Supported this bill because she was not being paid the standard wage at her job, and stated that this bill will put pressure on employers to pay the standard wage.

Elva Salazar, Food Service Worker, 32BJ-SEIU: Supports this bill on the grounds that it will make the standard wage law in Connecticut simpler and stronger. She states that the company she worked under withheld wages that the employees were entitled to, and that this bill would strictly enforce the standard wage laws.

Robert Thomas, Food Service Worker, 32BJ-SEIU: Supports this bill because he believes his employer was withholding wages that he was entitled to.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

No sources of opposition were provided.

Reported by:

Date: 2/17/23

Gabriel Marques, Assistant Clerk