

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 13-0114R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Clarke, Henry, President Young, Councilmembers Scott, Kraft, Middleton, Mosby, Holton, Welch, Reisinger, Stokes, Branch
Introduced and adopted: August 12, 2013

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

Request for State Action – Increase the Maryland Minimum Wage

1 **Request for State Action – Increase the Maryland Minimum Wage**
2 FOR the purpose of showing support for raising and indexing the state of Maryland’s minimum
3 wage and the sub-minimum wage for tipped workers to restore it to its historic value, and
4 calling upon the Maryland General Assembly to draft or pass, and the Governor to sign,
5 legislation to do so.

6 **WHEREAS**, the state of Maryland’s minimum wage is only \$7.25 per hour, or \$15,000 a year
7 for a full-time, year round worker.

8 **WHEREAS**, the state of Maryland’s minimum wage currently leaves full-time earners and
9 their families below the federal poverty line.

10 **WHEREAS**, the state of Maryland’s minimum wage would be over \$10.60 per hour had it kept
11 up with the rising cost of living over the last forty years.

12 **WHEREAS**, the overwhelming majority of workers subject to the sub-minimum wage for
13 tipped workers are women.

14 **WHEREAS**, nineteen states have raised their minimum wages above the state of Maryland’s
15 rate, including Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Maine,
16 Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode
17 Island, Vermont, Washington, and the District of Columbia.

18 **WHEREAS**, ten states index the minimum wage each year to keep pace with the rising cost of
19 living - a key protection to prevent the minimum wage from eroding again.

20 **WHEREAS**, raising the state of Maryland’s minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour, increasing the
21 sub-minimum wage for tipped workers from 50 percent to 70 percent of the full minimum wage,
22 and indexing both wage rates to rise automatically with the cost of living each year would raise
23 pay for more than 472,000 workers in Maryland and generate more than \$466 million in new
24 economic growth, resulting in more than 4,060 new full-time jobs as higher sales lead businesses
25 to hire more employees.

26 **WHEREAS**, wages and salaries now make up the lowest share of national income since 1966,
27 while corporate profits are now the largest share of national income since 1950.

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

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1 **WHEREAS**, the minimum wage is becoming more important than ever to Maryland’s
2 economy as more workers rely on low-wage jobs to make ends meet, and as job growth since the
3 recession has been disproportionately concentrated in low-wage occupations.

4 **WHEREAS**, the most rigorous academic research shows that raising the minimum wage
5 boosts incomes of low-paid workers without reducing employment, even during periods of high
6 unemployment.

7 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, that the
8 Council supports raising and indexing the state of Maryland’s minimum wage and the
9 sub-minimum wage for tipped workers to restore it to its historic value, and calls upon the
10 Maryland General Assembly to draft or pass, and the Governor to sign, legislation to do so.

11 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the
12 Governor, the Honorable Chairs and Members of the Baltimore City Senate and House
13 Delegations to the 2014 Maryland General Assembly, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the
14 City Council.