

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 14-0143R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Clarke, Henry, Holton, Scott, Branch, Mosby, Middleton,
Stokes, President Young, Councilmembers Spector, Reisinger, Curran, Welch
Introduced and adopted: January 27, 2014

A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING

Support for the Governor’s Agenda – Raising the State Minimum Wage

1
2 FOR the purpose of calling upon the State legislature to enact and the Governor to sign legislation
3 to raise the State minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour by 2016, index the minimum wage to
4 inflation to keep pace with the rising cost of living, and increase the minimum wage for
5 tipped workers from 50 percent to 70 percent of the regular minimum wage.

6 **WHEREAS**, the minimum wage in Maryland is only \$7.25 per hour, or \$15,000 a year for a
7 full-time, year round worker. The \$7.25 level has been in effect since 2009.

8 **WHEREAS**, the State minimum wage would be over \$10 per hour had it kept pace with the
9 rising cost of living over the last forty years.

10 **WHEREAS**, the current State minimum wage leaves full-time earners and their families below
11 the federal poverty line.

12 **WHEREAS**, 86% of low-wage workers are adults (over 20 years old), 77% work more than 20
13 hours a week, and nearly half have at least some college education.

14 **WHEREAS**, approximately 350,000 Maryland children have at least one parent who would
15 benefit from an increase in the minimum wage.

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

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

22 **WHEREAS**, an increase in the minimum wage could lift thousands of Baltimore families and
23 children out of poverty.

24 **WHEREAS**, minimum wage earners are disproportionately women and people of color.

25 **WHEREAS**, raising Maryland’s minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour will generate over \$490
26 million in new consumer spending.

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

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1 **WHEREAS**, raising Maryland’s minimum wage will support the creation of 4,280 new full-
2 time jobs as businesses expand to meet increased consumer demand.

3 **WHEREAS**, raising the minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour will also directly and indirectly
4 boost pay for over half a million low-wage workers.

5 **WHEREAS**, twenty-one states have raised their minimum wages above the federal rate.

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

8 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, that the
9 Council supports legislation to raise the State minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour by 2016, index
10 the minimum wage to inflation to keep pace with the rising cost of living, and increase the
11 minimum wage for tipped workers from 50 percent to 70 percent of the regular minimum wage.

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