

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 12-0063R  
(Resolution)**

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Introduced by: President Young, Councilmembers Kraft, Scott, Curran, Henry, Spector,  
Middleton, Mosby, Holton, Welch, Reisinger, Stokes, Branch, Clarke

Introduced and read first time: August 13, 2012

Assigned to: Labor Committee

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REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: Labor Commissioner, Wage Commission

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A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

2 **Request for Federal Action - Raising the Minimum Wage**

3 FOR the purpose of expressing the Baltimore City Council's support for raising and indexing the  
4 federal minimum wage and the sub-minimum wage for tipped workers to restore it to its  
5 historic value, and calling upon Congress to draft or pass, and the President to sign,  
6 legislation that would do so.

7 **Recitals**

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9 **WHEREAS**, the minimum wage under the federal Fair Labor Standards Act is only \$7.25 per  
10 hour, or \$15,000 a year for a full-time, year round worker.

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

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

15 **WHEREAS**, 76% of workers earning at or near the minimum wage are adults, and minimum  
16 wage earners are disproportionately women and people of color.

17 **WHEREAS**, the federal minimum wage for workers who receive tips has been frozen at a  
18 meager \$2.13 since 1991.

19 **WHEREAS**, the overwhelming majority of workers subject to this sub-minimum wage are  
20 women.

21 **WHEREAS**, in Baltimore, 36% of households headed by a single mother live below the  
22 poverty line.

23 **WHEREAS**, eighteen states have raised their minimum wages above the federal rate, including  
24 Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Maine, Massachusetts,  
25 Michigan, Montana, New Mexico, Nevada, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington,  
26 and the District of Columbia.

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

**Council Bill 12-0063R**

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

3       **WHEREAS**, the Rebuild America Act, proposed by Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) would raise  
4 the federal minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$9.80 per hour in three steps by 2014, index it each  
5 year after that to keep pace with inflation, and raise the minimum wage for tipped workers to  
6 70% of the regular minimum wage.

7       **WHEREAS**, this increase would raise pay for more than 28 million Americans and generate  
8 more than \$25 billion in new consumer spending, resulting in more than 100,000 new full-time  
9 jobs, as higher sales lead businesses to hire more employees.

10       **WHEREAS**, corporate profits are now the largest share of GDP since 1950, while wages and  
11 salaries are now the lowest share of GDP since 1955.

12       **WHEREAS**, the minimum wage is becoming more important than ever to America's economy  
13 as more workers rely on low-wage jobs to make ends meet, and as job growth since the recession  
14 has been disproportionately concentrated in low-wage occupations.

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

18       **WHEREAS**, an increase in the federal minimum wage would be especially impactful in states  
19 such as Maryland that do not have a higher state minimum wage.

20       **WHEREAS**, the wage increase would have a direct positive impact on the wages of 320,000  
21 Marylanders and would generate \$1 billion in new consumer spending in the state.

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

24       **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, that the  
25 Council supports raising and indexing the federal minimum wage and the sub-minimum wage for  
26 tipped workers to restore it to its historic value, and calling upon Congress to draft or pass, and  
27 the President to sign, legislation that would do so.

28       **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Mayor, the  
29 Maryland Delegation to the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress, and the Mayor's Legislative Liaison to the City  
30 Council.