

Statewide Paid Sick Leave Law

Dari-Mart Stores Inc. operates 45 convenience stores in 3 counties. There are approx. 500 employees of which 420 of those employees are hourly store clerks.

Dari-Mart strongly objects to this law and the hardship it will force onto our company. The most severe impact of this law, paying the absent employee and the clerk that must work to fill the absence. Realistically if you “give” it will be taken; implementation of an act like this one will be abused by the hourly clerk. This will increase payroll two fold and create extreme hardship on our managers to find replacement workers.

Currently the City of Eugene has implemented an ordinance that is already creating a hardship on our companies even though our headquarters resides outside of Eugene; it is being forced on us to adhere to this ordinance because we do have stores in Eugene as well as delivery people that deliver to Eugene.

Eugene and the State of Oregon are implementing procedures that are going to force business to close down, move out, and relocate out of state. Is this the true purpose of these laws? I must say it seems to be because with what the State of Oregon has done in the past year and is proposing to implement this year is appalling. First the legalization of marijuana – eliminates the ability for a company to hire with a zero tolerance drug and alcohol policy, the minimum wage increase to 12.20 and/or 15.00 per hour. You are driving business right out of business.

The minimum wage increase included with this sick leave law will create a future for Oregon that will force businesses to increase prices to the extent that our products could potentially double in price. This is ridiculous, this law does not strengthen the people of this state, it does not strengthen business people to feel secure in owning and operating a family business, it does not help with health care of employees; those that say it does are not realistic. It forces business to pay people to not work.

The facts: Implementation of 56 hours of paid sick leave for all employees would increase our payroll by \$300 thousand annually. Increasing the minimum wage to \$15.00 per hour would increase our payroll by more than \$2.8 million annually. These two changes in combination would create an additional payroll expense for all Dari-Mart that is 3-times greater than our best single year corporate net profit in the last 10 years. This is “guaranteed proof” that the price for goods will increase substantially in order to support this law.

Summary: We are opposed to this law as the impact is too costly to the business and the people of the State of Oregon.

Regards,

Earline Rust SPHR
HR Director
Dari-Mart Stores Inc.