

**STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**

**Senate Committee On Workforce**

**Fiscal:** Fiscal impact issued

**Revenue:** Revenue impact issued

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**Action Date:** 04/20/15

**Action:** Without Recommendation As To Passage And Be Referred To Rules.

**Meeting Dates:** 04/13, 04/20

**Vote:**

Yeas: 3 - Dembrow, Gelser, Rosenbaum

Nays: 2 - Knopp, Thatcher

**Prepared By:** Matthew Germer, Committee Administrator

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Raises the minimum wage to \$13.50 by 2017. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Demographics of minimum wage workers
- Consumer purchasing power
- Wage compression
- Distribution of wealth
- History of minimum wage

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

The minimum wage is the lowest hourly wage a non-exempt employee may be paid by an employer. In 1938, Congress set the first national minimum wage at 25 cents an hour. Currently, the federal minimum wage is \$7.25 an hour. In 2002, Oregon voters enacted Measure 25, setting the Oregon minimum wage at \$6.90 an hour and directing the Bureau of Labor and Industries to adjust the Oregon minimum wage according to inflation, as determined by the annual change in the United States Department of Labor's Consumer Price Index. Currently, the Oregon minimum wage is \$9.25 an hour.

Senate Bill 597 raises the Oregon minimum wage to \$13.50 by 2017.