

**SENATE CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION No. 1500**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
217th LEGISLATURE**

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 11, 2016

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator STEPHEN M. SWEENEY**

**District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)**

**Senator SHIRLEY K. TURNER**

**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Senators Beach, Codey, P.Barnes, III, Cunningham, Cruz-Perez, Stack,  
B.Smith, Ruiz, Whelan, Rice, Vitale, Sacco, Greenstein, Madden,  
Weinberg, Pou and Sarlo**

**SYNOPSIS**

Proposes constitutional amendment setting minimum wage at \$9.00 per hour, raising it in one dollar increments until it reaches \$15.00 per hour.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1 A **CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** proposing to amend the Article I,  
2 paragraph 23 of the New Jersey Constitution.

3

4 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Senate of the State of New Jersey (the  
5 General Assembly concurring):

6

7 1. The following proposed amendment to the Constitution of  
8 the State of New Jersey is agreed to:

9

10 PROPOSED AMENDMENT

11

12 Amend Article I, paragraph 23 to read as follows:

13 23. Every employer shall, beginning the January 1 next  
14 following the date of the approval of this amendment by the people  
15 pursuant to Article IX of the Constitution, pay each employee  
16 subject to the "New Jersey State Wage and Hour Law," P.L.1966,  
17 c.113 (C.34:11-56a et seq.), or a successor State statute, a wage rate  
18 of not less than the rate required by that act, or \$8.25 per hour,  
19 whichever is more. On the September 30 next following the date of  
20 the approval of this amendment, and on September 30 of each  
21 subsequent year until 2017 and on each subsequent year after 2023,  
22 the State minimum wage rate shall be increased, effective the  
23 following January 1, by any increase during the one year prior to  
24 that September 30 in the consumer price index for all urban wage  
25 earners and clerical workers (CPI-W) as calculated by the federal  
26 government. The minimum wage rate shall be whichever rate is  
27 higher of the rate set by the "New Jersey State Wage and Hour  
28 Law," P.L.1966, c.113 (C.34:11-56a et seq.), or a successor State  
29 statute, or the rate of \$9.00 per hour as of January 1, 2018, to be  
30 increased by \$1.00 on January 1 of each year until the rate is set at  
31 \$15.00 per hour on January 1, 2024. If, at any time, the federal  
32 minimum hourly wage rate set by section 6 of the federal "Fair  
33 Labor Standards Act of 1938" (29 U.S.C. s.206), or a successor  
34 federal law, is raised to a level higher than the State minimum wage  
35 rate, then the State minimum wage rate shall be increased to the  
36 level of the federal minimum wage rate and all subsequent increases  
37 based on increases in the CPI-W pursuant to this paragraph shall be  
38 applied to the State minimum wage rate as increased to match the  
39 federal minimum wage rate. This paragraph shall not be construed  
40 as altering or amending any provision of the "New Jersey State  
41 Wage and Hour Law," P.L.1966, c.113 (C.34:11-56a et seq.) or a  
42 successor State statute, other than the hourly rate set by that act, or  
43 prohibiting the Legislature from amending that act.  
44 (cf: Art. I, par. 23; added effective December 5, 2013)

45

46 2. When this proposed amendment to the Constitution is finally

**EXPLANATION** – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

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1 agreed to pursuant to Article IX, paragraph 1 of the Constitution, it  
2 shall be submitted to the people at the next general election  
3 occurring more than three months after the final agreement and  
4 shall be published at least once in at least one newspaper of each  
5 county designated by the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the  
6 General Assembly and the Secretary of State, not less than three  
7 months prior to the general election.

8  
9 3. This proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be  
10 submitted to the people at that election in the following manner and  
11 form:

12 There shall be printed on each official ballot to be used at the  
13 general election, the following:

14 a. In every municipality in which voting machines are not used,  
15 a legend which shall immediately precede the question as follows:

16 If you favor the proposition printed below make a cross (X), plus  
17 (+), or check (✓) in the square opposite the word "Yes." If you are  
18 opposed thereto make a cross (X), plus (+) or check (✓) in the  
19 square opposite the word "No."

20 b. In every municipality the following question:  
21

	YES	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO INCREASE THE STATE MINIMUM WAGE</b></p> <p>Do you approve amending the State Constitution to set the State minimum wage rate at \$9.00 per hour starting in 2018? The rate will then rise by one dollar each year until it reaches \$15.00 in 2024. In 2025 and thereafter, the rate will increase when there is an increase in the cost of living.</p>
	NO	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT</b></p> <p>This amendment to the State Constitution sets the minimum wage rate at \$9.00 per hour in 2018. The rate rises one dollar each year until it is set at \$15 per hour in 2024. In 2025 and the years that follow, the rate will increase to reflect increases in the cost of living, as provided by current law.</p>

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STATEMENT

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25 This amendment to the State Constitution sets the minimum  
26 wage rate at \$9.00 per hour starting on January 1, 2018 and raises it  
27 one dollar each year until it is set at \$15 per hour in 2024. In 2025  
28 and in the years that follow, the rate will be increased when the cost  
29 of living increases, as provided by current law. The increases will  
30 be based on increases in the consumer price index.