

# WEST VIRGINIA DIVISION OF LABOR

1900 Kanawha Boulevard East - State Capitol Complex – Building 3, Room 200 - Charleston, WV 25305

Telephone: (304)558-7890

[labor.wv.gov](http://labor.wv.gov)

Fax: (304)558-3797



## MINIMUM WAGE REQUIREMENTS

An employer employing 6 or more employees in any one separate, distinct and permanent location during any calendar week, including the State of West Virginia, and its agencies and departments, must comply with the state minimum wage law, §21-5C.

### Required Minimum Wage Rate

- Beginning January 1, 2016, employers must pay employees at least \$8.75 per hour.

### Required Minimum Training Wage Rate

- An employer may pay an employee under the age of 20 years, first hired on or after January 1, 2015, a training wage of at least \$6.40 per hour for the first 90 days of employment.
- Beginning with the 91<sup>st</sup> day of employment, an employer must pay the employee the required minimum wage rate.

### Permissible Minimum Wage Credit for Tipped Employees

- Beginning January 1, 2016, employers may take up to a 70% credit, or \$6.13 per hour, against the required minimum wage rate for employees who customarily receive tips, resulting in a reduced hourly wage rate of at least \$2.62 per hour.
- To qualify for the credit, employers must ensure that the employees' tips and the reduced hourly wage rate equal at least the required minimum wage rate and must keep accurate records of employees' tips.



West Virginia

# NOTICE

## Whistle-blower Law

The West Virginia Whistle-blower Law protects public employees against discharge, discrimination, or retaliation when they, in good faith, report any instances of

### WASTE

Substantial abuse, misuse, destruction, or loss of public funds or resources

### WRONGDOING

Non-technical violations of any statute, regulation, ordinance, or code of ethics designed to protect the public interest

*W. Va. Code § 6C-1-1*

To report any instance of waste or wrongdoing, as defined above, contact the appropriate supervisory personnel in your office or agency, or other appropriate official.

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## WEST VIRGINIA WAGE PAYMENT AND COLLECTION ACT

**This abstract must be placed in an area accessible to all employees in accordance with the requirements of W. Va. Code §21-5-9.**

### **§21-5 REQUIRES THE EMPLOYER TO:**

Pay employee wages at least twice a month, with no more than 19 days between paydays.

Compensate employees for services rendered by cash, check, direct deposit, or money order, and make arrangements with a bank convenient to the place of employment for employees to have immediate access to their wages.

When an employee is discharged, quits, resigns, is laid off, or is on strike, pay the employee on or before the next regularly scheduled payday for all work he or she performed prior to his or her separation from employment.

On separation from employment, pay an employee the fringe benefits due and payable according to the time, terms, and conditions of an employer-employee agreement, whether verbal or written, if any.

Notify employees in writing at the time of hire, or by a posted notice that is accessible to all employees, identifying the employer's established work week, pay periods, regularly scheduled pay days, and employment practices and policies regarding vacation, sick leave and other fringe benefits, if any.

Provide employees with at least 1 full pay period's written notice before making any changes to an employee's rate of pay, fringe benefits, the time and place for meeting payroll, or any other existing terms or conditions of employment.

Furnish each employee with a written itemized statement of deductions withheld from his or her wages each pay period.

### **§21-5 PREVENTS THE EMPLOYER FROM:**

Selling goods or supplies to employees at prices higher than the current market value.

Deducting more than 25% of an employee's net earnings under a wage assignment (excluding amounts required by law to be withheld or paid for union or club dues, pension plans, payroll savings plans, credit unions, charities, and hospitalization and medical insurance).

Accepting a wage assignment that does not contain the employee's notarized signature, specify the total amount due and the amount to be deducted, and state that 75% of the employee's net wages are exempt from assignment.

Refusing to pay wages owed, up to \$800.00, to the relatives of a deceased employee.

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## PARENTAL LEAVE ACT

**PARENTAL LEAVE ACT** – (W. Va. Code §21-5D-1, *et. seq.*). This legislation, enacted in 1989, covers employees of all departments, divisions, boards, bureaus, agencies, commissions or other units of State Government and County Boards of Education.

Under this law, an employee shall be entitled to a total of 12 weeks of unpaid *Parental Leave* following the exhaustion of all his or her annual and personal leave, during any 12-month period. The unpaid leave shall be granted to an employee for any of the following reasons:

- The birth of a son or daughter of the employee
- The placement of a son or daughter with the employee for adoption
- To care for the employee's son or daughter, spouse, parent, or dependent who has a serious health condition

The statute further states that in the case of a serious health condition, the leave may be taken intermittently when medically necessary.

If a leave of absence due to the birth or adoption of a child is foreseeable, the employee shall provide the employer with a two weeks written notice. If a leave of absence is foreseeable due to planned medical treatment or medical supervision, the employee shall make a reasonable effort to schedule the leave of absence so as not to disrupt the operations of the employer, subject to the approval of the health care provider.

If an employee requests *Parental Leave* to care for a family member with a serious health condition, the employer may require the employee to provide certification by a health care provider of the family member's health condition and that the employee's assistance is necessary. The certification shall be sufficient if it contains the following:

- That the child, dependent, parent, or employee has a serious health condition
- The date the serious health condition commenced and its probable duration
- The medical facts regarding the serious health condition, upon release by the patient

The position held by an employee immediately before the leave of absence shall be held and the employee shall be returned to that position upon his or her return to work. However, the employer may hire a temporary employee to fill the position for the period of time the employee is off work.

No employer may, because an employee received *Parental Leave*, reduce or deny any employment benefit or seniority which accrued to the employee before his or her leave commenced.