City of Philadelphia

City Council
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Legislation Details (With Text)

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Title: Urging the General Assembly to pass legislation allowing cities of the first class to raise the minimum wage to $25 an hour, an essential step toward ensuring that all Philadelphians are able to keep up with the rising cost of living and have the opportunity to build a better future.

Sponsors: Council President Johnson, Councilmember Harrity, Councilmember Gauthier, Councilmember Landau, Councilmember Lozada, Councilmember Brooks, Councilmember O'Rourke, Councilmember Ahmad

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Attachments: 1. Resolution No. 26059400, 2. Signature26059400

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result	Tally
6/4/2026	0	CITY COUNCIL	ADOPTED	Pass	
5/28/2026	0	CITY COUNCIL	Introduced and Ordered Placed On Next Week's Final Passage Calendar		

Urging the General Assembly to pass legislation allowing cities of the first class to raise the minimum wage to $25 an hour, an essential step toward ensuring that all Philadelphians are able to keep up with the rising cost of living and have the opportunity to build a better future.

WHEREAS, Between the creation of Pennsylvania’s minimum wage in 1968 and 1980, the General Assembly regularly increased in the minimum wage; and

WHEREAS, Between 1981 and 1998, the Commonwealth made no changes in the minimum wage, a nearly two-decade wait, like the one today’s working Pennsylvanians endure; and

WHEREAS, Pennsylvania is one of only 20 states that have not raised the minimum wage from $7.25, which has been at this rate since 2009, leaving residents across the Commonwealth unable to adjust to the increased cost of living for more than 15 years; and

WHEREAS, Establishing a $25 an hour minimum wage would reflect rising inflation and increased worker productivity while helping ensure that working Philadelphians can meet the growing cost of living; and

WHEREAS, Philadelphia is the most populated city in the Commonwealth, has the highest cost of living in the Commonwealth, and is one of the poorest cities in the country. Our current minimum wage as well as inability to set and regulate our own wages negatively and disproportionately impact our constituents; and

WHEREAS, Philadelphia City Council’s inability to regulate local wages is an anomaly among large cities nationwide, underscoring the need to create state-level policy to match our substantially larger constituency and higher cost of living compared with the rest of the Commonwealth. Without the legislative authority to regulate wages, Philadelphia remains dependent on the General Assembly to aid in our mission to promote economic

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prosperity for our residents; and

WHEREAS, More than 60 cities and counties nationwide have wage-setting authority independent from their state legislation, providing local policymakers with more agency in ensuring wages match the circumstances of their constituents. This allows local legislatures to be more responsive in meeting the financial needs of their constituents; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, Hereby urges the General Assembly to authorize first-class cities to raise the minimum wage to $25 an hour, empowering hardworking citizens to meet the rising cost of living.

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