



State of Wisconsin  
2003 - 2004 LEGISLATURE

LRB-3484/1  
GMM&MES:wlj:jf

## 2003 ASSEMBLY BILL 633

October 30, 2003 - Introduced by Representatives GROTHMAN, NASS, LEMAHIEU, HAHN, OWENS, HINES, JENSEN, VRAKAS, STONE, FRISKE, SUDER, GUNDRUM and WEBER, cosponsored by Senators PANZER, REYNOLDS, WELCH and SCHULTZ. Referred to Committee on Labor.

1     **AN ACT to renumber and amend** 104.08 (1), 104.08 (2) and 104.08 (3); **to amend**  
2             104.01 (intro.), 104.01 (5), 104.02, 104.03, 104.04, 104.05, 104.06, 104.07 (1),  
3             104.07 (2), 104.10, 104.11 and 104.12; and **to create** 104.001 and 104.08 (1m)  
4             (b) of the statutes; **relating to:** preemption of county, city, village, or town living  
5             wage ordinances.

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### *Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau*

Under current constitutional and statutory home rule provisions, a city or village may determine its own local affairs subject only to the Wisconsin Constitution and to any enactment of the legislature that is of statewide concern and that affects every city or village with uniformity.

This bill requires that the state minimum wage law, under which an employer may not pay an employee less than a living wage, be construed as an enactment of statewide concern for the purpose of providing a living wage that is uniform throughout the state. As such, the bill permits a county, city, village, or town to enact an ordinance establishing a living wage only if the ordinance strictly conforms to the state minimum wage law.

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For further information see the *state and local* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

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*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

1           **SECTION 1.** 104.001 of the statutes is created to read:

2           **104.001 Statewide concern; uniformity.** (1) This chapter shall be  
3 construed as an enactment of statewide concern for the purpose of providing a living  
4 wage that is uniform throughout the state.

5           (2) A county, city, village, or town may enact and administer an ordinance  
6 establishing a living wage only if the ordinance strictly conforms to this chapter and  
7 any rules promulgated under this chapter. Except as provided in sub. (3), a county,  
8 city, village, or town may not administer an ordinance establishing a living wage  
9 unless that ordinance strictly conforms to this chapter and any rules promulgated  
10 under this chapter.

11           (3) A county, city, village, or town that has a living wage ordinance in effect on  
12 the effective date of this subsection .... [revisor inserts date], may maintain and  
13 administer that ordinance if the department reviews the ordinance and determines  
14 that the ordinance strictly conforms to this chapter and any rules promulgated under  
15 this chapter. If the department determines that any part of the existing ordinance  
16 does not strictly conform to this chapter and any rules promulgated under this  
17 chapter, the county, city, village, or town may amend the ordinance and submit the  
18 amended ordinance to the department for a determination of whether the amended  
19 ordinance strictly conforms to this chapter and any rules promulgated under this  
20 chapter. A county, city, village, or town may not amend a living wage ordinance

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1 except to maintain strict conformity with this chapter and any rules promulgated  
2 under this chapter.

3 (4) A county ordinance enacted under this section does not apply within any  
4 city, village, or town that has enacted or enacts an ordinance under this section.

5 (5) This section does not affect the requirement that employees employed on  
6 a public works project contracted for by a county, city, village, or town be paid at the  
7 prevailing wage rate, as defined in s. 66.0903 (1) (g), as required under s. 66.0903.

8 **SECTION 2.** 104.01 (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

9 **104.01 Definitions.** (intro.) The following terms as used in ss. ~~104.01 to~~  
10 ~~104.12~~ this chapter shall be construed as follows:

11 **SECTION 3.** 104.01 (5) of the statutes is amended to read:

12 104.01 (5) The term ~~“living-wage”~~ shall mean “Living wage” means  
13 compensation for labor paid, whether by time, piecework, or otherwise, sufficient to  
14 enable the employee receiving it the compensation to maintain himself or herself  
15 under conditions consistent with his or her welfare.

16 **SECTION 4.** 104.02 of the statutes is amended to read:

17 **104.02 Living-wage Living wage prescribed.** Every wage paid or agreed  
18 to be paid by any employer to any employee, except as otherwise provided in s.  
19 104.07, shall be not less than a ~~living-wage~~ living wage.

20 **SECTION 5.** 104.03 of the statutes is amended to read:

21 **104.03 Unlawful wages.** Any employer paying, offering to pay, or agreeing  
22 to pay any employee a wage lower or less in value than a ~~living-wage~~ living wage is  
23 guilty of a violation of ss. ~~104.01 to 104.12~~ this chapter.

24 **SECTION 6.** 104.04 of the statutes is amended to read:

**ASSEMBLY BILL 633****SECTION 6**

1           **104.04 Classifications; department's authority.** The department shall  
2 investigate, ascertain, determine, and fix such reasonable classifications, and shall  
3 impose general or special orders, determining the ~~living-wage~~ living wage, and shall  
4 carry out the purposes of ~~ss. 104.01 to 104.12~~ this chapter. Such investigations,  
5 classifications, and orders shall be made as provided under s. 103.005, and the  
6 penalties specified in s. 103.005 (12) shall apply to and be imposed for any violation  
7 of ~~ss. 104.01 to 104.12~~ this chapter. In determining the ~~living-wage~~ living wage, the  
8 department may consider the effect that an increase in the ~~living-wage~~ living wage  
9 might have on the economy of the state, including the effect of a ~~living-wage~~ living  
10 wage increase on job creation, retention, and expansion, on the availability of  
11 entry-level jobs, and on regional economic conditions within the state. The  
12 department may not establish a different minimum wage for men and women. Said  
13 orders shall be subject to review in the manner provided in ch. 227.

14           **SECTION 7.** 104.05 of the statutes is amended to read:

15           **104.05 Complaints; investigation.** The department shall, within 20 days  
16 after the filing of a verified complaint of any person setting forth that the wages paid  
17 to any employee in any occupation are not sufficient to enable the employee to  
18 maintain himself or herself under conditions consistent with his or her welfare,  
19 investigate and determine whether there is reasonable cause to believe that the wage  
20 paid to any employee is not a ~~living-wage~~ living wage.

21           **SECTION 8.** 104.06 of the statutes is amended to read:

22           **104.06 Wage council; determination.** If, upon investigation, the  
23 department finds that there is reasonable cause to believe that the wages paid to any  
24 employee are not a ~~living-wage~~, it living wage, the department shall appoint a wage  
25 council, selected so as fairly to represent employers, employees, and the public, to

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1 assist in its investigations and determinations. The ~~living-wage~~ living wage so  
2 determined upon shall be the ~~living-wage~~ living wage for all employees within the  
3 same class as established by the classification of the department.

4 **SECTION 9.** 104.07 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

5 104.07 (1) The department shall make rules, and, except as provided under  
6 subs. (5) and (6), grant licenses, to any employer who employs any employee who is  
7 unable to earn the living-wage theretofore determined upon living wage determined  
8 by the department, permitting such ~~person~~ the employee to work for a wage which  
9 shall be that is commensurate with the employee's ability and each. Each license so  
10 granted shall establish a wage for the licensee.

11 **SECTION 10.** 104.07 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

12 104.07 (2) The department shall make rules, and, except as provided under  
13 subs. (5) and (6), grant licenses to sheltered workshops, to permit the employment  
14 of workers with disabilities who are unable to earn the ~~living-wage~~ living wage at  
15 a wage that is commensurate with their ability and productivity. A license granted  
16 to a sheltered workshop under this ~~section~~ subsection may be issued for the entire  
17 workshop or a department of the workshop.

18 **SECTION 11.** 104.08 (1) of the statutes is renumbered 104.08 (2m) and amended  
19 to read:

20 104.08 (2m) ~~All persons~~ Any person working in an occupation a trade industry  
21 for which a ~~living-wage~~ living wage has been established for minors, and who shall  
22 ~~have~~ has no trade, shall, ~~if employed in an occupation which is a trade industry,~~ be  
23 indentured under ~~the provisions of s. 106.01.~~

24 **SECTION 12.** 104.08 (1m) (b) of the statutes is created to read:

**ASSEMBLY BILL 633****SECTION 12**

1           104.08 (1m) (b) "Trade industry" means an industry involving physical labor  
2 and characterized by mechanical skill and training such as render a period of  
3 instruction reasonably necessary.

4           **SECTION 13.** 104.08 (2) of the statutes is renumbered 104.08 (1m) (intro.) and  
5 amended to read:

6           104.08 (1m) (intro.) ~~A "trade" or a "trade industry" within the meaning of ss.~~  
7 ~~104.01 to 104.12 shall be a trade or~~ In this section:

8           (a) "Trade" means an industry occupation involving physical labor and  
9 characterized by mechanical skill and training such as render a period of instruction  
10 reasonably necessary.

11           (3) (a) The department shall investigate, determine, and declare what  
12 occupations and industries are included within the phrase a "trade" or a "trade  
13 industry".

14           **SECTION 14.** 104.08 (3) of the statutes is renumbered 104.08 (3) (b) and  
15 amended to read:

16           104.08 (3) (b) The department may make exceptions to the operation of ~~subs.~~  
17 ~~(1) and (2) where~~ sub. (2m) when conditions make ~~their~~ its application unreasonable.

18           **SECTION 15.** 104.10 of the statutes is amended to read:

19           **104.10 Penalty for intimidating witness.** Any employer who discharges or  
20 threatens to discharge, or in any way discriminates, or threatens to discriminate  
21 against any employee because the employee has testified or is about to testify, or  
22 because the employer believes that the employee may testify, in any investigation or  
23 proceeding relative to the enforcement of ~~ss. 104.01 to 104.12~~ this chapter, is guilty  
24 of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of \$25 for  
25 each offense.

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1           **SECTION 16.** 104.11 of the statutes is amended to read:

2           **104.11 Definition of violation.** Each day during which any employer shall  
3 employ a person for whom a ~~living-wage~~ living wage has been fixed at a wage less  
4 than the ~~living-wage~~ living wage fixed shall constitute a separate and distinct  
5 violation of ~~ss. 104.01 to 104.12~~ this chapter.

6           **SECTION 17.** 104.12 of the statutes is amended to read:

7           **104.12 Complaints.** Any person may register with the department a  
8 complaint that the wages paid to employees an employee for whom a ~~living-wage~~  
9 living wage has been established are less than that rate living wage, and the  
10 department shall investigate the matter and take all proceedings necessary to  
11 enforce the payment of a wage that is not less than the ~~living-wage~~ living wage.  
12 Section 111.322 (2m) applies to discharge and other discriminatory acts arising in  
13 connection with any proceeding under this section.

14           **SECTION 18. Initial applicability.**

15           (1) This act first applies to an employee who is affected by a collective  
16 bargaining agreement that contains provisions that are inconsistent with section  
17 104.001 of the statutes, as created by this act, on the day on which the collective  
18 bargaining agreement expires or is extended, modified, or renewed, whichever  
19 occurs first.

20

(END)