

2026 -- H 7490

LC004604

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

A N A C T

RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- MINIMUM WAGES--OVERTIME

Introduced By: Representatives Potter, Bennett, Read, Shanley, Edwards, Messier,  
Furtado, and Giraldo

Date Introduced: February 04, 2026

Referred To: House Labor

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 28-12-4.3 of the General Laws in Chapter 28-12 entitled "Minimum Wages" is hereby amended to read as follows:

**28-12-4.3. Exemptions.**

(a) The provisions of §§ 28-12-4.1 and 28-12-4.2 do not apply to the following employees:

(1) Any employee of a summer camp when it is open no more than six (6) months of the year;

(2) Police officer;

(3) Employees of the state or political subdivision of the state who may elect through a collective bargaining agreement, memorandum of understanding, or any other agreement between the employer and representatives of the employees, or if the employees are not represented by an exclusive bargaining agent, through an agreement or understanding arrived at between the employer and the employee prior to the performance of work, to receive compensatory time off for hours worked in excess of forty (40) in a week. The compensatory hours shall at least equal one and one-half (1½) times the hours worked over forty (40) in a week. If compensation is paid to an employee for accrued compensatory time, the compensation shall be paid at the regular rate earned by the employee at the time of payment. At the time of termination, unused accrued compensatory time shall be paid at a rate not less than:

(i) The average regular rate received by the employee during the last three (3) years of the employee's employment; or

1 (ii) The final regular rate received by the employee, whichever is higher;

2 ~~(4) Any employee employed in a bona fide executive, administrative, or professional~~  
3 ~~capacity, as defined by the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, 29 U.S.C. § 201 et seq., compensated~~  
4 ~~for services on a salary basis of not less than two hundred dollars (\$200) per week;~~

5 ~~(5) Any employee as defined in subsection (a)(4) of this section unless the wages of the~~  
6 ~~employee, if computed on an hourly basis, would violate the applicable minimum wage law;~~

7 (4)(i) Through December 31, 2026, any employee employed in a bona fide executive,  
8 administrative, or professional capacity, as defined by the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, 29  
9 U.S.C. § 201 et seq., unless the wages of the employee, if computed on an hourly basis, would  
10 violate the applicable minimum wage law, as defined by § 28-12-3;

11 (ii) Commencing January 1, 2027, through December 31, 2027: any employee employed  
12 by an employer with fifty (50) or fewer employees in a bona fide executive, administrative, or  
13 professional capacity, as defined by the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, 29 U.S.C. § 201 et seq.,  
14 unless the wages of the employee, if computed on an hourly basis, would equal less than one and  
15 one-half (1½) times the minimum wage, established by § 28-12-3;

16 (iii) Commencing January 1, 2027, through December 31, 2027: any employee employed  
17 by an employer with more than fifty (50) employees in a bona fide executive, administrative, or  
18 professional capacity, as defined by the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, 29 U.S.C. § 201 et seq.,  
19 unless the wages of the employee, if computed on an hourly basis, would equal less than two (2)  
20 times the minimum wage, established by § 28-12-3;

21 (iv) Commencing January 1, 2028, through December 31, 2028: any employee employed  
22 by an employer with fifty (50) or fewer employees in a bona fide executive, administrative, or  
23 professional capacity, as defined by the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, 29 U.S.C. § 201 et seq.,  
24 unless the wages of the employee, if computed on an hourly basis, would equal less than two (2)  
25 times the minimum wage, established by § 28-12-3;

26 (v) Commencing January 1, 2028: any employee employed by an employer with more than  
27 fifty (50) employees in a bona fide executive, administrative, or professional capacity, as defined  
28 by the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, 29 U.S.C. § 201 et seq., unless the wages of the employee,  
29 if computed on an hourly basis, would equal less than two and one-half (2½) times the minimum  
30 wage, established by § 28-12-3;

31 (vi) Commencing January 1, 2029: any employee employed by an employer with fifty (50)  
32 or fewer employees in a bona fide executive, administrative, or professional capacity, as defined  
33 by the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, 29 U.S.C. § 201 et seq., unless the wages of the employee,  
34 if computed on an hourly basis, would equal less than two and one-half (2½) times the minimum

1 [wage established by § 28-12-3;](#)

2 ~~(6)~~(5) Any salaried employee of a nonprofit national voluntary health agency who elects

3 to receive compensatory time off for hours worked in excess of forty (40) hours per week;

4 ~~(7)~~(6) Any employee, including drivers, driver's helpers, mechanics, and loaders of any

5 motor carrier, including private carriers, with respect to whom the United States Secretary of

6 Transportation has power to establish qualifications and maximum hours of service pursuant to the

7 provisions of 49 U.S.C. § 31502;

8 ~~(8)~~(7) Any employee who is a salesperson, parts person, or mechanic primarily engaged in

9 the sale and/or servicing of automobiles, trucks, or farm implements, and is employed by a non-

10 manufacturing employer primarily engaged in the business of selling vehicles or farm implements

11 to ultimate purchasers, to the extent that the employers are exempt under the Fair Labor Standards

12 Act of 1938, 29 U.S.C. § 213(b)(10); provided, that the employee's weekly, biweekly, or monthly

13 actual earnings exceed an amount equal to the employee's basic contractual hourly rate of pay times

14 the number of hours actually worked plus the employee's basic contractual hourly rate of pay times

15 one-half (½) the number of hours actually worked in excess of forty (40) hours per week;

16 ~~(9)~~(8) Any employee employed in agriculture; however, this exemption applies to all

17 agricultural enterprises that produce greenhouse crops, fruit and vegetable crops, herbaceous crops,

18 sod crops, viticulture, viniculture, floriculture, feed for livestock, forestry, dairy farming,

19 aquaculture, the raising of livestock, furbearing animals, poultry and eggs, bees and honey,

20 mushrooms, and nursery stock. This exemption also applies to nursery workers; and

21 ~~(10)~~(9) Any employee of an air carrier subject to the provisions of 45 U.S.C. § 181 et seq.,

22 of the Railway Labor Act when the hours worked by that employee in excess of forty (40) in a

23 workweek are not required by the air carrier, but are arranged through a voluntary agreement among

24 employees to trade scheduled work hours.

25 (b) Nothing in this section exempts any employee who under applicable federal law is

26 entitled to overtime pay or benefits related to overtime pay.

27 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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1 Under current law, employers are not obligated to pay overtime to their executive,  
2 administrative, and professional employees who are compensated through salary rather than hourly  
3 wages, unless the salary of such employees would, if calculated according to a 40-hour work week,  
4 fall below the state's current minimum wage. This act would raise that cut-off and make additional  
5 salaried employees non-exempt and therefore eligible for overtime pay, by requiring small  
6 employers with one to fifty (1-50) employees and large employers with fifty (50) or more  
7 employees, to pay overtime wages to currently exempt workers, if their salary falls below a  
8 threshold based upon multipliers of minimum hourly wage, for a forty (40) hour workweek. For  
9 example, for the year 2027, the multiplier would be one and one-half (1½) times the minimum  
10 hourly wage for a forty (40) hour workweek for small employers with less than fifty (50) employees  
11 and two (2) times the minimum hourly wage for a forty (40) hour workweek for large employers  
12 with more than fifty (50) employees, resulting in overtime entitlement for more employees.

13 This act would take effect upon passage.

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