

MINIMUM WAGE

The seemingly endless discussion regarding the Massachusetts minimum wage continues. The House debated and passed their proposal on Wednesday, April 2nd. The Senate passed their version in November. The details of each proposal can be found below. A conference committee will be convened to draft a compromise bill, provided both branches agree on legislative process. This bill would then need to be approved by both branches of government before being sent to the Governor’s desk. Unions and activists have also threatened to seek a minimum wage increase through a 2014 ballot initiative. Thus far they have certified the appropriate number of signatures to move forward in that process. The MRA has maintained that any increase to the minimum wage should be “lower and slower” to allow for business to adapt and absorb any increase.

The details of each proposal would be effective on July 1 of the given year, ballot question would be effective Jan 1.

Minimum Wage	Ballot	Senate	House
2014	-----	\$9.00	\$9.00
2015	\$9.25	\$10.00	\$10.00
2016	\$10.50	\$11.00	\$10.50
Index future increases to CPI	Yes	Yes	No

TIPPED EMPLOYEE WAGE

The MRA and its members have together and individually participated in hundreds of conversations and communications with elected officials. The grassroots effort to educate legislators about the tip wage and [how it works](#), has united the industry unlike any issue in recent memory. The members of the House have responded to these education efforts and recognize the need for a more balanced approach:

Tipped Employee Wage	Ballot	Senate	House
2014	-----	\$4.50	\$3.00
2015	\$4.15	\$5.00	\$3.35
2016	\$6.30	\$5.50	\$3.75

The tip wage is not easily understood outside of our industry. We must continue our education efforts regarding the unique circumstances that we face. Senators have admitted to having “their eyes opened” regarding the tip wage since the vote in November. We must continue our education efforts.

Click [here](#) for list of Senators and Reps by town.