

Employment Law Update: Minimum Wage Increase Passed

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Yesterday, Governor Murphy signed a law increasing the minimum wage in New Jersey. The minimum wage will gradually increase to \$15 an hour for most workers over a five-year period. The first increase will be to \$10 an hour and will take place on July 1, 2019. It will then increase to \$11 in 2020, \$12 in 2021, \$13 in 2022, \$14 in 2023, and \$15 in 2024.

Special exceptions exist for seasonal workers, agricultural workers, and workers employed by businesses with five or less employees. Seasonal workers and those employed by businesses with five or less employees will not reach \$15 an hour until 2026. Agricultural workers will increase to \$12.50 per hour by January 2024. Thereafter, the New Jersey Labor Commissioner and Secretary of Agriculture will jointly decide whether to recommend that the minimum wage for agricultural workers increase to \$15 per hour by January 1, 2027.

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Practice

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