



## 2007 Legislative Summary Sheet

### Survey of Low Wage Bills Introduced into State Legislatures

This legislative summary sheet was developed to give an overview of the policy and legislation targeted at low-wage workers. Statutes and bills can be reviewed individually, but often it is useful to view them in “themes” or “clusters” to:

- ▶ Highlight legislative activity in one particular state
- ▶ Make it easier to compare legislation between states
- ▶ Illustrate varying legislation language and content

#### Contents in this Summary Sheet:

<b>Bills Supporting Health Care Access.....</b>	<b>p.1</b>
<b>Bill Related to Economic Development.....</b>	<b>p.2</b>
<b>Bills Related to Fair Wages and Protections for Low-Wage Workers.....</b>	<b>p.3</b>
<b>Bills Providing Tax Assistance to Low Wage Workers.....</b>	<b>p.5</b>
<b>Bills Providing Services or Asset Building Opportunities to Low-Wage Workers.....</b>	<b>p.6</b>



#### **Bills Supporting Health Care Access**

##### California

- ▶ CA SB 51 (In Committee, 5/31/07).  
Establishes the San Diego Health Care Connection Demonstration Project, which includes a resource center and a premium assistance program that would provide employed persons without health care coverage access to health care coverage

##### Connecticut

- ▶ CT HB 5650 (Failed Joint Favorable Deadline, 3/22/07)  
Establishes a program to provide health insurance premium assistance to low-income persons in order for them to procure employer-sponsored health insurance

##### Georgia

- ▶ GA HR 90 (In Committee, 1/26/07).  
Appeals to the US Congress to remove income exclusions that prohibit the enrollment of children of public employees in the PeachCare Program for Kids, a subsidized health insurance program for children in Georgia

##### Louisiana

- ▶ LA HCR 9 (Passed House and Senate, 6/21/07).  
Extends task force investigating ways to provide health care coverage to the working uninsured

##### New York

- ▶ NY AB 4448 (In Committee, 2/2/07)

Establishes a program to encourage small employers to offer health care coverage and to make coverage available to employees whose employers do not offer health care coverage

- ▶ NY AB 4859 (Substituted, 6/20/07).
- ▶ NY SB 5878 (In Committee, 6/21/07)  
Creates a demonstration program to increase insurance rates among unionized and lower-wage workers, and to decrease public spending on health care
- ▶ NY SB 3409 (In Committee, 3/5/07)  
Requires certain employers to provide a minimum amount of health insurance coverage to their employees

#### Pennsylvania

- ▶ PA HB 700 (In Committee, 4/3/2007)  
Provides access to affordable health insurance coverage for previously uninsured individuals and for small businesses

#### Rhode Island

- ▶ RI SB 945 (Assigned Resolution Number 2007-373, 6/22/07)  
Petitions the Executive Office of Health and Human Services to reinstate/provide healthcare coverage to the uninsured

#### Washington

- ▶ WA HB 1569 (Vetoed by Governor, 5/2/2007)  
Establishes a health insurance partnership for the purchase of small employer health insurance
- ▶ WA HB 2094 (In Committee, 2/27/07)
- ▶ WA SB 5977 (In Committee, 2/9/07)  
Creates the Taxpayer Health Care Fairness Act, a mechanism to reimburse the state for its costs of providing health care services to workers without health insurance
- ▶ WA SB 5658 (In Committee, 2/9/07).  
Reduces health care premiums for small employers by providing reinsurance services
- ▶ WA SB 6130 (In Committee, 2/27/07)  
Reforms the health care system through a public/private partnership designed to make health care premiums more affordable for employers and employees



### Bills Related to Economic Development

#### Alabama

- ▶ AL HB 477 (In Committee, 3/22/07)  
Establishes the Alabama Economic Development and Fiscal Accountability Act, provides public access to reports and recordings relating to economic development subsidies

#### Illinois

- ▶ IL HR 110 (In Committee, 3/6/07)  
Establishes a bipartisan task force to study how to create career paths and job opportunities for all working-age Illinoisans, including the least skilled and most disadvantaged

#### Maryland

- ▶ MD HB 926 (Withdrawn, 3/22/07)
- ▶ MD SB 778 (In Committee, 2/21/07)  
Establishes a Job Skills Advancement Training Program to provide grants to local workforce investment boards to fund programs and services for low-income workers

#### Pennsylvania

- ▶ PA SB 784 (In Committee, 5/2/07)  
Sponsors a study to examine the effectiveness of economic development subsidies in supporting working families
- ▶ OK HB 1989 (In Committee, 2/6/07)  
Sponsors a study to examine the effectiveness of economic development subsidies in supporting working families



### **Bills Related to Fair Wages and Protections for Low-Income Workers**

#### Hawaii

- ▶ HI HB 33 (In Committee, 2/16/07)  
Requires private firms contracted by state government to pay covered workers a living wage

#### Illinois

- ▶ IL HR 110 (In Committee, 2/27/07)  
Petitions US Congress to create a national minimum wage of \$8.25 by 2010

#### Indiana

- ▶ IN HB 1217 (In Committee, 1/11/07)  
Requires contractors who receive a state agency contract to pay their employees a living wage

#### Iowa

- ▶ IA HB 313 (In Committee, 2/13/07)
- ▶ IA HB 675 (In Committee, 4/28/07)  
Directs Iowa State University to conduct a study investigating the economic, fiscal, and social effects of establishing a living wage in Iowa

#### Maryland

- ▶ MD HB 430 (Signed by Governor, 5/8/07)  
Requires certain businesses with state contracts to pay certain employees at least an established minimum wage rate

#### Massachusetts

- ▶ MA HB 1860 (In Committee, 6/20/07).  
Provides a living wage to all employees of providers that deliver social services or child care under contract or subcontract with the state

#### Minnesota

- ▶ MN HB 1443 (In Committee, 2/26/07)
- ▶ MN HB 2377 (In Committee, 3/29/07)
- ▶ MN HB 2136 (In Committee, 3/15/07)  
Modifies prevailing wage provisions for certain classes of workers
- ▶ MN HB 58 (In Committee, 1/8/07)  
Requires the preparation and implementation of an initiative to expand job training for minorities and to substantially increase the wages paid to minority workers

#### Mississippi

- ▶ MS HB 384 (Died In Committee, 1/30/07)
- ▶ MS SB 2292 (Died In Committee, 1/30/07)  
Creates the Fair Pay Act to eliminate discriminatory wage practices
- ▶ MS HB 237 (Died in Committee, 2/27/07)
- ▶ MS HB 1478 (Died in Committee, 1/30/07)  
Creates the Mississippi Working Person's Act, which requires a certain wage be paid by employers doing business in the state

#### New York

- ▶ NY SB 2477 (In Committee, 2/6/07)
- ▶ NY AB 1724 (In Committee, 4/17/07)
- ▶ NY AB 1422 (In Committee, 1/9/07)
- ▶ NY AB 2876 (In Committee, 1/19/2007)  
Ensures that businesses awarded state subsidies for economic development provide at least minimum living standards for working families
- ▶ NY AB 2712 (Passed Assembly, in Senate Committee, 4/24/07)
- ▶ NY SB 3936 (In Committee, 3/20/07)  
Enacts the New York State Fair Pay Act, which makes it unlawful for an employer to discriminate between employees on the basis of race, sex, or national origin by paying different wages
- ▶ NY AB 1223 (In Committee, 2/13/07)
- ▶ NY SB 3936 (In Committee, 6/21/07)  
Relates to establishing a living wage for personal care service workers
- ▶ NY AB 4249 (In Committee, 1/31/07)
- ▶ NY AB 891 (In Committee, 1/3/07)  
Prohibits state colleges and universities from licensing their trademarks on apparel from contractors failing to pay a living wage

- ▶ NY AB 628 (In Committee, 2/7/07)
- ▶ NY SB 5235 (In Committee, 6/11/07)  
Establishes labor standards for domestic workers, including provisions for a living wage
- ▶ NY AB 6595  
Establishes the Day and Temporary Labor Services Act, which establishes numerous protections for day and temporary laborers (In Committee, 3/14/07).

#### Oklahoma

- ▶ OK HB 2027 (In Committee, 2/6/07)  
Increases the minimum wage to \$6.50 (\$6.25 for minors)

#### Rhode Island

- ▶ RI HB 5682 (Held in Committee for Study, 3/21/07)  
Requires all large retailers to pay their employees a 'living wage rate,' which includes a fair wage and benefits

#### Tennessee

- ▶ TN SJR 47 (In Committee, 2/7/07)  
Proposes a Constitutional Amendment to establish a minimum wage for certain jobs

#### Washington

- ▶ WA HB 1118 (In Committee, 2/27/07)  
Mandates businesses receiving state contracts to pay employees a living wage
- ▶ WA HB 1118 (In Committee, 2/28/07)  
Develops a system to ensure log haulers are fairly compensated

#### Wisconsin

- ▶ WI AB 274 (In Committee, 4/23/07)
- ▶ WI SB 130 (In Committee, 4/30/07)  
Increases the minimum wage to \$7.25



### Bills Providing Tax Assistance to Low Wage Workers

#### California

- ▶ CA AB 650 (Passed House, In Senate, 7/18/07)  
Requires employers to notify employees that they may be eligible for the federal earned income tax credit
- ▶ CA AB 1078 (Passed House, In Senate, 7/17/07)  
Ensures earnings from the federal earned income tax credit do not impact eligibility in social programs;  
Develops policies to ensure those eligible for the tax credit earn the maximum amount

#### South Carolina

- SC HB 3167 (In Committee, 1/9/07)  
Provides individuals with a state individual income tax credit equal to 10% of the federal earned income tax credit



## **Bills Providing Services or Asset Building Opportunities to Low-Wage Workers**

### Illinois

- IL HB 1009 (To Governor, 6/20/07)  
Provides child care assistance to low-income parents who are working or participating in an education or training program

### Indiana

- IN SB 421 (In Committee, 1/16/07)  
Establishes the Indiana Work Pays Program to help participants move into higher paying jobs through employment exchanges, education and training, work supports, and other services

### Massachusetts

- MA SB 1077 (Filed, 4/27/07).  
Provides vocational training and basic education to adults in the state

### Michigan

- MI SCR 10 (Passed Senate, 3/6/07)
- MI SCR 4 (Passed Senate, to House, 3/6/07)  
Petitions US Congress to increase funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

### Mississippi

- MS SB 2880 (Died in Committee, 1/30/07)
- MS SB 2316 (Died in Committee, 1/30/07)  
Creates the Mississippi Work Pays Program to provide assistance (child care assistance, transportation, career counseling, etc.) to welfare recipients transitioning to employment
- MS HB 384 (Died in Committee, 1/30/07).  
Establishes the Child Care Provider Development and Retention Grant Program, which provides educational opportunities and assistance for health care coverage for child care workers

### Missouri

- MO HCR 42 (In Committee, 5/18/07)  
Supporting efforts to invest in children through child care subsidy programs

### Montana

- MT EO 16 (Introduced, 2/22/07)  
Creating a Governor's Council on Economic Security, includes plans to improve the service delivery of public assistance program and strategies to enhance the assets of low-income families

### New Hampshire

- NH SB 226 (Signed by Governor, 7/16/07)

Establishes career ladder initiatives and job search programs for TANF recipients

#### New York

- ▶ NY AB 7990 (In Committee, 6/12/07)  
Expands provisions of public assistance employment programs to include the development of career plans for participants

#### Ohio

- ▶ OH EO 16 (introduced, 3/21/07)  
Establishes a strong foundation for basic child care and supports access to affordable child care for parents

#### Pennsylvania

- ▶ PA SB 258 (In Committee, 3/8/07)  
Establishes a mentoring program for individuals transitioning from welfare to work
- ▶ PA HR 122 (Passed House, 7/15/07)  
Petitions US Congress and the President to increase funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program

#### Washington

- ▶ WA SCR 8404 (Passed House and Senate, 4/12/07)
- ▶ WA HCR 4404 (Passed House, in Senate, 4/22/07)  
Increases adult basic education skills and occupational skills to assist low-income workers in improving their employment opportunities

The Network has additional resources related to this topic.

1. The Network has a Topic Page on Low-Wage Workers. To view:
  - a) go back to our home page [www.bc.edu/wfnetwork/](http://www.bc.edu/wfnetwork/)
  - b) click on the appropriate user group (**Research/Teaching, Workplace Practice, or State Policy**)
  - c) and choose 'Low-Wage Workers' from the Topics List
2. Our database of academic literature contains the citations and annotations of literature related to the issue of Low Wage Workers. You can connect to this database at:  
[http://library.bc.edu/F?func=find-b-0&local\\_base=BCL\\_WF](http://library.bc.edu/F?func=find-b-0&local_base=BCL_WF)
3. The Network has compiled a Work-Family Bills and Statutes Database to help provide an overview of the bills that have been proposed and the laws that have been passed in various states that are relevant to work-family issues. This Database includes bills and statutes related to Low-Wage Workers that have been proposed in previous and current legislative sessions. You can connect to this database at <http://wfnetwork.bc.edu/bills.php?area=policy>