

County Council of Howard County, Maryland

2020 Legislative Session

Legislative Day No. 12

Resolution No. 143 -2020

Introduced by: Liz Walsh

A Resolution declaring policy support by the Howard County Council for the “Fight For \$15” Coalition, which successfully advocated for the passage and eventual enactment of a phased-in \$15 per hour minimum wage for Marylanders, and for maintaining the first minimum wage phase-in as enacted, effective January 1, 2021.

Introduced and read first time on _____, 2020.

By order _____
Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator to the County Council

Read for a second time and a public hearing held on _____, 2020.

By order _____
Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator to the County Council

This Resolution was read the third time and was Adopted __, Adopted with amendments __, Failed __, Withdrawn __ by the County Council on _____, 2020.

Certified by _____
Diane Schwartz Jones, Administrator to the County Council

NOTE: [[text in brackets]] indicates deletions from existing language; TEXT IN ALL CAPITALS indicates additions to existing language. ~~Strike out~~ indicates material deleted by amendment; Underlining indicates material added by amendment.

1 **WHEREAS**, the “Fight For \$15” Coalition successfully advocated for the passage and the
2 eventual enactment in 2019 of a phased-in \$15 per hour minimum wage for Marylanders;
3 and

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5 **WHEREAS**, during the deliberation of the Fight For \$15 legislation (HB166/SB280), the
6 Maryland General Assembly added Section 3-413.1 to the Labor and Employment
7 Article of the Maryland Annotated Code, which grants the Board of Public Works the
8 discretion to delay a scheduled increase to the minimum wage if it determines that a
9 certain economic indicator warrants such a delay; this provision became known as the
10 “off ramp;” and

11
12 **WHEREAS**, Board of Public Works Members Peter V.R. Franchot, Maryland Comptroller, and
13 Nancy K. Kopp, Maryland State Treasurer, constituting a majority of the Board, have
14 expressed support for the first phase-in of the wage increase to proceed as originally
15 intended, for which we express our gratitude (see e.g., June 23, 2020: Maryland’s
16 Minimum Wage Increase Likely to Go Forward, Despite Opposition from Business
17 Groups, by Pamela Wood, Baltimore Sun); and

18
19 **WHEREAS**, throughout the entirety of the COVID-19 pandemic, certain front-line workers
20 deemed essential—including health and elder care support workers, childcare workers,
21 grocery store employees, restaurant workers, commercial cleaning crews, landscape and
22 construction labor, and delivery and transit workers—have sacrificed and placed
23 themselves in harm’s way as other Marylanders have adhered to the Governor’s stay-at-
24 home order; we honor their service to our communities; and

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26 **WHEREAS**, an increase to the minimum wage will benefit these essential workers and their
27 families, among all of Maryland’s working families; and

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29 **WHEREAS**, the first phase-in is scheduled to take effect January 1, 2021, increasing
30 Maryland’s minimum wage from \$11.00 per hour to \$11.75 per hour; and

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WHEREAS, while the present and near-future economic circumstances for Maryland generally may be uncertain and rather bleak, for working families the financial strain resulting from COVID-19 is certain to be much worse; and

WHEREAS, the Howard County Council accordingly believes that now is not the time to delay the January 1, 2021-scheduled increase to Maryland’s minimum wage, and that the Board of Public Works should decline to exercise its discretion to do so; and

WHEREAS, along with many elected officials from across the State of Maryland, the Howard County Council fully supports the goals of the Fight For \$15 Coalition to protect Maryland’s essential workers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Howard County, Maryland, that we hereby declare our full support of the goals of the Fight For \$15 Coalition, and for maintaining the first scheduled increase to Maryland’s minimum wage enacted by the Maryland General Assembly in 2019, effective January 1, 2021; and

- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a copy of this Resolution shall be sent to:
- The Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., Governor, State of Maryland
 - The Honorable Peter V.R. Franchot, Comptroller,
 - The Honorable Nancy K. Kopp, Treasurer
 - The Honorable Adrienne A. Jones, House Speaker
 - The Honorable William C. Ferguson, IV, Senate President