

2/11/2022

HB5573

A new house bill entered the minimum wage arena for higher education employees. The bill, [HB 5573](#) put forth by Rep. Will Guzzardi (D) of Chicago's 39th District, specifically targets the definition of "employee" to include those individuals in educational support roles such as custodial, food service, transportation, administrative, and teaching assistant positions. The proposal also aims to set the minimum hourly rate for employees at \$20.00 per hour for FY23, \$21.00 for FY24, and \$22.00 for FY25. HB 5573 then provides for each subsequent year the minimum hourly rate shall equal the minimum rate of the previous year plus increase by a percentage equal to the percentage increase of the prior year's [Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers](#) for all items published by the United States Department of Labor.

If there is no percentage increase in the CPI for ACU for all items over the prior year, the minimum hourly rate does not change. The idea is to tie higher education employee salaries to the cost of goods and services, minimizing the effect higher prices have on employee's stagnant salaries. If the CPI for ACU rises, higher education salaries will rise by the same percentage.

Our Local wishes for all members to contact their elected representatives and urge them to pass HB 5573. If you do not know who your elected official is, please check with the [Illinois State Board of Elections](#).

<https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/billstatus.asp?DocNum=5573&GAID=16&GA=102&DocTypeID=HB&LegID=140103&SessionID=110>

[https://www.bls.gov/cpi/#:~:text=The%20Consumer%20Price%20Index%20\(CPI,of%20consumer%20goods%20and%20services.&text=Average%20price%20data%20for%20select,food%20items%20are%20also%20available.](https://www.bls.gov/cpi/#:~:text=The%20Consumer%20Price%20Index%20(CPI,of%20consumer%20goods%20and%20services.&text=Average%20price%20data%20for%20select,food%20items%20are%20also%20available.)

<https://elections.il.gov/ElectionOperations/DistrictLocator/AddressFinder.aspx>