As Reported by the Senate Insurance, Commerce and Labor Committee

126th General Assembly Regular Session 2005-2006

Sub. H. B. No. 690

Representatives Seitz, Brinkman, Combs, Evans, D., Flowers, Gibbs, Hood, Martin, Reidelbach, Schneider, Setzer, Webster Senator Cates

ABILL

To amend sections 4111.01, 4111.02, 4111.03, 4111.04,
4111.08, 4111.09, and 4111.10 and to enact section
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4111.14 of the Revised Code to implement Section
34a, Article II, of the Constitution of the State
of Ohio and to further amend section 4111.08 of
the Revised Code on January 1, 2010, to apply
certain record-keeping provisions only to
employers subject to Ohio's overtime law.

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 4111.01, 4111.02, 4111.03, 4111.04,	9
4111.08, 4111.09, and 4111.10 be amended and section 4111.14 of	10
the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:	11
Sec. 4111.01. As used in sections 4111.01 to 4111.17 of the	12
Revised Code this chapter:	13
(A) "Wage" means compensation due to an employee by reason of	14
employment, payable in legal tender of the United States or checks	15
on banks convertible into cash on demand at full face value,	16
subject to the deductions, charges, or allowances permitted by	17

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the consumer;	48
(4) Any individual employed as an outside salesperson	49
compensated by commissions or in a bona fide executive,	50
administrative, or professional capacity as such terms are defined	51
by the "Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938," 52 Stat. 1060, 29	52
U.S.C.A. 201, as amended;	53
(5) Any employee employed in agriculture if the employee is	54
employed by an employer who did not, during any calendar quarter	55
during the preceding calendar year, use more than five hundred	56
worker days of agricultural labor, or if the employee is the	57
parent, spouse, child, or other member of the employer's immediate	58
family;	59
(6) Any individual who works or provides personal services of	60
a charitable nature in a hospital or health institution for which	61
compensation is not sought or contemplated;	62
(7) A member of a police or fire protection agency or student	63
employed on a part-time or seasonal basis by a political	64
subdivision of this state;	65
(8) Any individual in the employ of a camp or recreational	66
area for children under eighteen years of age and owned and	67
operated by a nonprofit organization or group of organizations	68
described in Section 501 (c)(3) of the "Internal Revenue Code of	69
1954," and exempt from income tax under Section 501 (a) of that	70
code;	71
(9) Any individual employed directly by the house of	72
representatives or directly by the senate.	73
(E) "Occupation" means any occupation, service, trade,	74
business, industry, or branch or group of industries or employment	75
or class of employment in which individuals are employed.	76

Sec. 4111.02. (A) Every employer and employers with less than 77

one hundred fifty thousand dollars gross annual sales, as defined

in Section 34a of Article II, Ohio Constitution, shall pay each of
the employer's employees at a wage rate of not less than the wage
rate specified in the "Fair Labor Standards Act," 29 U.S.C. 206,
as now or hereafter amended, beginning on the effective date of
this amendment, except as otherwise provided in this section

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Section 34a of Article II, Ohio Constitution.

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(B) Every employer shall pay each employee in agriculture at 85 a wage rate not less than the wage rate described in division (A) 86 of this section. This provision does not apply to any employee 87 employed in agriculture if the employee: (1)(a) is employed as a 88 hand harvest laborer and is paid on a piece rate basis in an 89 operation which has been, and is customarily and generally 90 recognized as having been, paid on a piece rate basis in the 91 region of employment, (b) commutes daily from the employee's 92 permanent residence to the farm on which the employee is so 93 employed, and (c) has been employed in agriculture less than 94 thirteen weeks during the preceding calendar year, or (2)(a) is 95 sixteen years of age or under, is employed as a hand harvest 96 97 laborer, and is paid on a piece rate basis in an operation which has been, and is customarily and generally recognized as having 98 been paid on a piece rate basis in the region of employment, (b) 99 is employed on the same farm as the employee's parent or person 100 standing in the place of the employee's parent, and (c) is paid at 101 the same piece rate as employees over age sixteen are paid on the 102 same farm. Such employees shall be paid no less than two dollars 103 and eighty cents per hour. 104

(C) For any employee engaged in an occupation in which the
employee customarily and regularly receives tips from patrons or
others, the employer shall pay The director of commerce annually
shall adjust the wage rate as specified for tipped employees in
the "Fair Labor Standards Act," 29 U.S.C. 203, as now or hereafter

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amended in Section 34a of Article II, Ohio Constitution.	110
As used in this section, "employee" has the same meaning as	111
in section 4111.14 of the Revised Code.	112
Sec. 4111.03. (A) An employer shall pay an employee for	113
overtime at a wage rate of one and one-half times the employee's	114
wage rate for hours worked in excess of forty hours in one	115
workweek, in the manner and methods provided in and subject to the	116
exemptions of section 7 and section 13 of the "Fair Labor	117
Standards Act of 1938," 52 Stat. 1060, 29 U.S.C.A. 207, 213, as	118
amended.	119
Any employee employed in agriculture shall not be covered by	120
the overtime provision of this section.	121
(B) For the purposes of this section, the number of hours	122
worked by a county employee in any one workweek shall be deemed to	123
include, in addition to hours actually worked, all periods in an	124
active pay status.	125
(C) If a county employee elects to take compensatory time off	126
in lieu of overtime pay, for any overtime worked, such	127
compensatory time may be granted by the employee's administrative	128
superior, on a time and one-half basis, at a time mutually	129
convenient to the employee and the administrative superior within	130
one hundred eighty days after the overtime is worked.	131
(D) A county appointing authority with the exception of the	132
county department of job and family services may, by rule or	133
resolution as is appropriate, indicate the authority's intention	134
not to be bound by division (B) or (C) of this section, and to	135
adopt a different policy for the calculation and payment of	136
overtime that is embodied in those divisions. Upon adoption, the	137
alternative policy prevails. Prior to the adoption of an	138
alternative overtime policy, the county appointing authority with	139

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the exception of the county department of job and family services	140
shall give a written notice of the alternative policy to each	141
employee at least ten days prior to the effective date of the	142
policy.	143
(E) As used in this section:	144
(1) "Employ" means to suffer or to permit to work.	145
(2) "Employer" means the state of Ohio, its	146
instrumentalities, and its political subdivisions and their	147
instrumentalities, any individual, partnership, association,	148
corporation, business trust, or any person or group of persons,	149
acting in the interest of an employer in relation to an employee,	150
but does not include an employer whose annual gross volume of	151
sales made for business done is less than one hundred fifty	152
thousand dollars, exclusive of excise taxes at the retail level	153
which are separately stated.	154
(3) "Employee" means any individual employed by an employer	155
<pre>but does not include:</pre>	156
(a) Any individual employed by the United States;	157
(b) Any individual employed as a baby-sitter in the	158
employer's home, or a live-in companion to a sick, convalescing,	159
or elderly person whose principal duties do not include	160
housekeeping;	161
(c) Any individual engaged in the delivery of newspapers to	162
the consumer;	163
(d) Any individual employed as an outside salesperson	164
compensated by commissions or employed in a bona fide executive,	165
administrative, or professional capacity as such terms are defined	166
by the "Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938," 52 Stat. 1060, 29	167
U.S.C.A. 201, as amended;	168
(e) Any individual who works or provides personal services of	169

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a charitable nature in a hospital or health institution for which	170
compensation is not sought or contemplated;	171
(f) A member of a police or fire protection agency or student	172
employed on a part-time or seasonal basis by a political	173
subdivision of this state;	174
(g) Any individual in the employ of a camp or recreational	175
area for children under eighteen years of age and owned and	176
operated by a nonprofit organization or group of organizations	177
described in Section 501 (c)(3) of the "Internal Revenue Code of	178
1954," and exempt from income tax under Section 501 (a) of that	179
code;	180
(h) Any individual employed directly by the house of	181
representatives or directly by the senate.	182
Sec. 4111.04. The director of commerce may:	183
(A) Investigate and ascertain the wages of persons employed	184
in any occupation in the state;	185
(B) Enter and inspect the place of business or employment of	186
any employer for the purpose of inspecting any books, registers,	187
payrolls, or other records of the employer that in any way relate	188
to the question of wages, hours, and other conditions of	189
employment of any employees, and may question the employees for	190
the purpose of ascertaining whether sections 4111.01 to 4111.17 of	191
the Revised Code, and the rules adopted thereunder, have been and	192
are being obeyed. In conducting an inspection of the records of an	193
employer, the director shall make every effort to coordinate the	194
inspection with those conducted by the federal agency responsible	195
for enforcement of the "Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938," 52	196
Stat. 1060, 29 U.S.C.A. 201, as amended. If the federal agency has	197
completed an audit or examination of the employer's records within	198
the sixty days prior to the date the director notifies the	199

200 employer of the director's intent to examine the employer's 201 records, the director shall accept in lieu of the director's own 202 inspection, a report from the federal agency that the employer is 203 in compliance with the federal act, unless the director has 204 reasonable grounds for believing that the report is inaccurate or 205 incomplete for the purposes of sections 4111.01 to 4111.13 of the 206 Revised Code, or that events occurring since the audit give the 207 director reasonable grounds for believing that a violation of 208 sections 4111.01 to 4111.13 of the Revised Code has occurred.

(C) In the event the director is prohibited by any employer 209 from carrying out the intent of this section, the director may 210 apply to any court of common pleas having jurisdiction of that 211 employer or the place of employment under issue subpoenas and 212 compel attendance of witnesses and production of papers, books, 213 accounts, payrolls, documents, records, and testimony relating and 214 relevant to the director's investigation, for an order directing 215 compliance with this section. Failure of the employer to obey the 216 order of the court may be punished by said court as a contempt 217 thereof. 218

Sec. 4111.08. Every employer subject to sections 4111.01 to 219 4111.17 of the Revised Code, or to any rule adopted thereunder, 220 shall make and keep for a period of not less than three years a 221 record of the name, address, and occupation of each of the 222 employer's employees, the rate of pay and the amount paid each pay 223 period to each employee, the hours worked each day and each work 224 week by the employee, and other information as the director of 225 commerce prescribes by rule as necessary or appropriate for the 226 enforcement of sections 4111.01 to 4111.17 of the Revised Code, or 227 of the rules thereunder. Records may be opened for inspection or 228 copying by the director at any reasonable time. Any records an 229 employer creates on or before December 31, 2006, shall be created 230

(B) At the written request of any employee paid less than the 255 wages to which the employee is entitled under sections 4111.01 to 256 4111.17 section 4111.03 of the Revised Code, the director of 257 commerce may take an assignment of a wage claim in trust for the 258 assigning employee and may bring any legal action necessary to 259 collect the claim. The employer shall pay the costs and reasonable 260 attorney's fees allowed by the court.

Sec. 4111.14. (A) Pursuant to the general assembly's	262
authority to establish a minimum wage under Section 34 of Article	263
II, Ohio Constitution, this section is in implementation of	264
Section 34a of Article II, Ohio Constitution. In implementing	265
Section 34a of Article II, Ohio Constitution, the general assembly	266
hereby finds that the purpose of Section 34a of Article II, Ohio	267
Constitution is to:	268
(1) Ensure that Ohio employees, as defined in division (B)(1)	269
of this section, are paid the wage rate required by Section 34a of	270
Article II, Ohio Constitution;	271
(2) Ensure that covered Ohio employers maintain certain	272
records that are directly related to the enforcement of the wage	273
rate requirements in Section 34a of Article II, Ohio Constitution;	274
(3) Ensure that Ohio employees who are paid the wage rate	275
required by Section 34a of Article II, Ohio Constitution may	276
enforce their right to receive that wage rate in the manner set	277
forth in Section 34a of Article II, Ohio Constitution; and	278
(4) Protect the privacy of Ohio employees' pay and personal	279
information specified in Section 34a of Article II, Ohio	280
Constitution by restricting an employee's access, and access by a	281
person acting on behalf of that employee, to the employee's own	282
pay and personal information.	283
(B) In accordance with Section 34a of Article II, Ohio	284
Constitution, the terms "employer," "employee," "employ,"	285
"person," and "independent contractor" have the same meanings as	286
in the "Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938," 52 Stat. 1060, 29	287
U.S.C. 203, as amended. In construing the meaning of these terms,	288
due consideration and great weight shall be given to the United	289
States department of labor's and federal courts' interpretations	290
of those terms under the Fair Labor Standards Act and its	291

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regulations. As used in division (B) of this section:	292
(1) "Employee" means individuals employed in Ohio, but does	293
not mean individuals who are excluded from the definition of	294
"employee" under 29 U.S.C. 203(e) or individuals who are exempted	295
from the minimum wage requirements in 29 U.S.C. 213 and from the	296
definition of "employee" in this chapter.	297
(2) "Employ" and "employee" do not include any person acting	298
as a volunteer. In construing who is a volunteer, "volunteer"	299
shall have the same meaning as in sections 553.101 to 553.106 of	300
Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations, as amended, and due	301
consideration and great weight shall be given to the United States	302
department of labor's and federal courts' interpretations of the	303
term "volunteer" under the Fair Labor Standards Act and its	304
regulations.	305
(C) In accordance with Section 34a of Article II, Ohio	306
Constitution, the state may issue licenses to employers	307
authorizing payment of a wage below that required by Section 34a	308
of Article II, Ohio Constitution to individuals with mental or	309
physical disabilities that may otherwise adversely affect their	310
opportunity for employment. In issuing such licenses, the state	311
shall abide by the rules adopted pursuant to section 4111.06 of	312
the Revised Code.	313
(D)(1) In accordance with Section 34a of Article II, Ohio	314
Constitution, individuals employed in or about the property of an	315
employer or an individual's residence on a casual basis are not	316
included within the coverage of Section 34a of Article II, Ohio	317
Constitution. As used in division (D) of this section:	318
(a) "Casual basis" means employment that is irregular or	319
intermittent and that is not performed by an individual whose	320
vocation is to be employed in or about the property of the	321
employer or individual's residence. In construing who is employed	322

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on a "casual basis," due consideration and great weight shall be	323
given to the United States department of labor's and federal	324
courts' interpretations of the term "casual basis" under the Fair	325
Labor Standards Act and its regulations.	326
(b) "An individual employed in or about the property of an	327
employer or individual's residence" means an individual employed	328
on a casual basis or an individual employed in or about a	329
residence on a casual basis, respectively.	330
(2) In accordance with Section 34a of Article II, Ohio	331
Constitution, employees of a solely family-owned and operated	332
business who are family members of an owner are not included	333
within the coverage of Section 34a of Article II, Ohio	334
Constitution. As used in division (D)(2) of this section, "family	335
member" means a parent, spouse, child, stepchild, sibling,	336
grandparent, grandchild, or other member of an owner's immediate	337
family.	338
(E) In accordance with Section 34a of Article II, Ohio	339
Constitution, an employer shall at the time of hire provide an	340
employee with the employer's name, address, telephone number, and	341
other contact information and update such information when it	342
changes. As used in division (E) of this section:	343
(1) "Other contact information" may include, where	344
applicable, the address of the employer's internet site on the	345
world wide web, the employer's electronic mail address, fax	346
number, or the name, address, and telephone number of the	347
employer's statutory agent. "Other contact information" does not	348
include the name, address, telephone number, fax number, internet	349
site address, or electronic mail address of any employee,	350
shareholder, officer, director, supervisor, manager, or other	351
individual employed by or associated with an employer.	352
(2) "When it changes" means that the employer shall provide	353

(5) "Each amount paid an employee" means the total gross

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worked for each day worked, and each amount paid to that employee.	446
(3) "Provide" means that an employer shall provide the	447
requested information within thirty business days after the date	448
the employer receives the request, unless either of the following	449
occurs:	450
(a) The employer and the employee or person acting on behalf	451
of the employee agree to some alternative time period for	452
providing the information.	453
(b) The thirty-day period would cause a hardship on the	454
employer under the circumstances, in which case the employer must	455
provide the requested information as soon as practicable.	456
(4) A "request" made by an employee or a person acting on	457
behalf of an employee means a request by an employee or a person	458
acting on behalf of an employee for the employee's own	459
information. The employer may require that the employee provide	460
the employer with a written request that has been signed by the	461
employee and notarized and that reasonably specifies the	462
particular information being requested. The employer may require	463
that the person acting on behalf of an employee provide the	464
employer with a written request that has been signed by the	465
employee whose information is being requested and notarized and	466
that reasonably specifies the particular information being	467
requested.	468
(H) In accordance with Section 34a of Article II, Ohio	469
Constitution, an employee, person acting on behalf of one or more	470
employees, and any other interested party may file a complaint	471
with the state for a violation of any provision of Section 34a of	472
Article II, Ohio Constitution or any law or regulation	473
implementing its provisions. Such complaint shall be promptly	474
investigated and resolved by the state. The employee's name shall	475
be kept confidential unless disclosure is necessary to resolution	476

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(2) No employee shall join as a party plaintiff in any civil	540
action that is brought under division (K) of this section by an	541
employee, person acting on behalf of an employee, or person acting	542
on behalf of all similarly situated employees unless that employee	543
first gives written consent to become such a party plaintiff and	544
that consent is filed with the court in which the action is	545
brought.	546
(3) A civil action regarding an alleged violation of this	547
section shall be maintained only under division (K) of this	548
section. This division does not preclude the joinder in a single	549
civil action of an action under this division and an action under	550
section 4111.10 of the Revised Code.	551
(4) Any agreement between an employee and employer to work	552
for less than the wage rate specified in Section 34a of Article	553
II, Ohio Constitution, is no defense to an action under this	554
section.	555
(L) In accordance with Section 34a of Article II, Ohio	556
Constitution, there shall be no exhaustion requirement, no	557
procedural, pleading, or burden of proof requirements beyond those	558
that apply generally to civil suits in order to maintain such	559
action and no liability for costs or attorney's fees on an	560
employee except upon a finding that such action was frivolous in	561
accordance with the same standards that apply generally in civil	562
suits. Nothing in division (L) of this section affects the right	563
of an employer and employee to agree to submit a dispute under	564
this section to alternative dispute resolution, including, but not	565
limited to, arbitration, in lieu of maintaining the civil suit	566
specified in division (K) of this section. Nothing in this	567
division limits the state's ability to investigate or enforce this	568
section.	569

(M) An employer who provides such information specified in

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December 31, 2006, shall be created and maintained in accordance	601
with this section.	602
Section 4. That existing section 4111.08 of the Revised Code,	603
as it results from Sections 1 and 2 of this act, is hereby	604
repealed.	605
Section 5. Sections 3 and 4 of this act take effect January	606
1, 2010.	607
Section 6. (A) The General Assembly, by enacting this act,	608
intends to implement the Ohio Fair Minimum Wage Amendment in the	609
manner in which the proponents of the Amendment described it to	610
Ohio voters during the campaigns for the General Election on	611
November 7, 2006.	612
(B) The proponents of the Ohio Fair Minimum Wage Amendment	613
issued campaign materials, one of which was entitled "Fact vs.	614
Fiction: Minimum Wage Opponents Shamelessly Distort Facts to Deny	615
Low-Wage Workers a Raise," published by Ohioans for a Fair Minimum	616
Wage, that stated all of the following upon which Ohio voters	617
relied to be honest and accurate:	618
(1) The Amendment defines "employer," "employee," and	619
"employ" as having the same meanings as under the federal Fair	620
Labor Standards Act. Clear definitions for terms such as "employ"	621
and "casual basis" will not necessitate litigation to clarify	622
their meanings because those terms have been established by	623
federal regulations, well settled case law, or both.	624
(2) By referencing the federal minimum wage law directly, the	625
Amendment ensures that the Ohio law tracks the federal minimum	626
wage requirements with respect to individuals who volunteer their	627
time.	628
(3) The Amendment does not threaten employees' privacy	629

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sections of law contained in this act are composed, and their	660
applications, are independent and severable.	661
Section 8. The amendment by this act of the section of law	662
listed in this section is subject to the referendum. Therefore,	663
under Ohio Constitution, Article II, Section 1c and section 1.471	664
of the Revised Code, the amendment, and the items of law of which	665
the amendment is composed, take effect as specified in this	666
section. If, however, a referendum petition is filed against any	667
such amendment, or against any item of law of which any such	668
amendment is composed, the amendment, unless rejected at the	669
referendum, goes into effect at the earliest time permitted by law	670
that is on or after the effective date specified in this section.	671
Section 4111.08 of the Revised Code, as amended in Sections 3	672
and 4 of this act, takes effect January 1, 2010.	673