



ADVOCACY UPDATE

The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce is the voice for business in Springfield and Sangamon County and has an obligation to its members to represent their interests to all levels of government and to the public. The Chamber supports laws and ordinances that encourage entrepreneurship, development, job creation and investment. The Chamber opposes public policy that creates unnecessary regulation and/or burden on the business community that will hamper the creation of new jobs and wealth.

Act now on Minimum Wage bill!

On Thursday, February 7, Democratic members of the Senate approved a \$15 hour minimum wage bill over opposition from a broad coalition of business community partners. This is an 82 percent increase in the minimum wage. SB 1 now moves to the House of Representatives for a vote that will likely come this week.

According to a survey conducted last week by Central Illinois Regional Chambers, more than 91% of 424 businesses surveyed reported concern about the impact the minimum wage increase will have on their business. Sixty-eight percent said they will have to raise prices, 63% will reduce employee hours, 62% will slow down hiring, and 48% will consider laying off employees. Another 14% said they would have to consider closing their business due to the increase.

With Democratic supermajorities in both chambers, it is certain that some minimum wage bill will be enacted into law this year. We strongly encourage you to contact lawmakers in the House of Representatives asking them to adopt some or all of the following changes to mitigate the impact the minimum wage increase will have on businesses across the state:

- If a minimum wage hike is going to happen it should reflect geographic cost differences rather than a one-size-fits all approach. Should businesses in Springfield, Decatur, or Jacksonville be forced to pay the same wages as Chicago?
- Increase the phase in time beyond six years.
- Create a more significant tax credit for employers to help mitigate the cost to employers.

We cannot stress enough the importance of contacting legislators, particularly those that reside outside of Chicago. It is important that we reach out to our downstate legislators. You can access our local House Representatives' contact information on the Chamber's [website](#) or statewide representatives at [House of Representatives](#).