

House Panel Moves Sick Time, Minimum Wage To Floor

The House Michigan Competitiveness Committee this morning reported legislation neutralizing most of the effects of minimum wage and earned sick time laws adopted earlier this fall that originated as voter initiatives.

[SB 1171](#) and [SB 1175](#) were reported on 6-3 party-line votes. The bills could come up on the floor for a full House vote as early as this afternoon.

Democrats offered several amendments, which were rejected. No changes were made to the Senate-passed versions of the bills.

Republicans and business groups support the changes, saying current policy, which the Legislature adopted to keep both issues off the ballot, is too extreme and difficult for businesses to comply with.

Democrats, activists and the groups that worked to get signatures for the proposals say the changes gut the intent and shouldn't be passed during the same session in which they were adopted.

The two bills are indeed significant departures to what was put before the Legislature when it enacted the initiated acts in September. [SB 1171](#) delays the phase-in for the \$12 minimum wage to 2030 instead of 2022. It also reinstates the tipped minimum wage. Tipped workers would make \$4 an hour by 2030 versus the \$3.52 those workers make now. They would have made the regular minimum wage under the initiatives by 2024.

The bill also breaks the link in the minimum wage to inflation after 2030, removing the inflation adjuster put in place in a 2014 compromise.

For paid sick time, instead of requiring employers to provide one hour of sick time for every 30 hours worked up to 72 hours earned per year, as the initiative stipulates, [SB 1175](#) requires one hour for every 40 hours worked and caps sick time at 36 hours annually instead of 72.

Further, the bill limits the application of the requirement to employers with 50 or more employees, as the federal Family and Medical Leave Act provides. Far more workers would be covered under the initiated law.