Alaska State Laws

Statute: AS 23.10.065 – Minimum Wages (Current Alaska Statute)
Enacted via: State law (not a bill number/session)
Effective: Ongoing, with annual adjustments and recent changes from Ballot Measure 1
Source: [Justia AL Stat § 23.10.065 (2024)](Justia Law)
Cross-check: Alaska Department of Labor confirms the new 2025 wage rate—$11.91/hr—and outlines upcoming increases to $13 (2025), $14 (2026), and $15 (2027) under Ballot Measure 1 (Alaska Labor Department).

📝 AS 23.10.065 – Alaska Minimum Wage Law

- **What it does**:
    - Sets Alaska's minimum wage, updated annually based on inflation (Anchorage CPI-U), and mandates wages start at not less than $2 above the federal minimum if that figure is higher(Justia Law).
    - Specifies that school bus drivers must be paid at least twice the minimum wage.
- **Cost to taxpayers/employers**: Employers face rising labor costs (from $11.91 to $15 over 3 years), but employees benefit from steady pay increases.
- **Who it helps/affects**:
    - Employees across Alaska (all wage workers, including school bus drivers).

    - Employers, especially small businesses, needing to plan for phased wage increases.

Pros & Cons

- ✅ Pros:
    - Ensures wages keep pace with inflation.
    - Raises the earnings of many low-wage workers.
    - Provides predictability with stepped increases through 2027.
    - Automatically protects wages via inflation adjustment.

- ❌ Cons:
    - Increased wage costs for employers, especially tough for small businesses.
    - May pressure employers to reduce hours or staff.
    - Large step increases could provoke layoffs or price hikes.

🗳️ **Ballot Beacon Takeaway**: Alaska's minimum wage now rises steadily with inflation and sets clear step-ups to $13 (2025), $14 (2026), and $15 (2027)—a voter-approved move balancing labor fairness with economic planning.