

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.