



**PUBLIC POLICY No.: WIOA-01-2022**

**DATE:** FRIDAY \_\_\_\_\_, MARCH \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_, 2022

**SUBJECT:** PUBLIC POLICY TO ESTABLISH THE PAYMENT OF THE STATE MINIMUM WAGE FOR PARTICIPANTS IN THE YOUTH, ADULT AND DISLOCATED WORKER PROGRAMS OF THE MANATÍ/DORADO LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AREA

**REFERENCE:** PUERTO RICO MINIMUM WAGE LAW (ACT 47-2021).  
WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT (WIOA P. L. 113-128)

**I. INTRODUCTION**

On September 21, 2021, the Honorable Governor of Puerto Rico Pedro Pierluisi-Urrutia held a press conference in which he announced several laws that would be implemented. The "Puerto Rico Minimum Wage Act" was amended to allow the state minimum wage to prevail over the federal minimum wage. According to the Governor, after twelve (12) years without the approval of an increase to the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour, the Puerto Rico Minimum Wage Act will increase the minimum hourly wage in Puerto Rico to \$8.50, effective January 1, 2022. In the same manner, the minimum wage will increase in a staggered manner until 2024.

The purpose of this law is to adjust the minimum wage to the cost of living, based on the principle that no worker should be below the poverty level, that all workers should have sufficient income to cover their basic needs, and to ensure the progress and improvement of living standards.

**II. LEGAL BASIS**

- Act No. 47 of September 21, 2021- "Puerto Rico Minimum Wage Act".
- Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA P. L. 113-128).



### **III. PUBLIC POLICY**

The working class faces great challenges. With the economic crisis facing the island and the decline of employment opportunities, more and more people are forced to leave Puerto Rico in search of better paying jobs and a much more favorable living condition. The economic factor is the main element that induces decision making in every citizen. For this reason, it is necessary to ensure the welfare and quality of life of workers through a fair reward for their workday.

Consequently, the Manatí/Dorado Local Workforce Development Area, understanding the need that many of our participants face and recognizing that they are an integral part of the economic development of the island, created this Public Policy to establish the following and we quote:

#### **Section 2.02. — State Minimum Wage**

- ✓ On January 1, 2022, the minimum wage in Puerto Rico will be increased to eight dollars and fifty cents per hour (\$8.50/hr).
- ✓ On July 1, 2023, the minimum wage increase in Puerto Rico will be nine dollars and fifty cents per hour (\$9.50/hr.).
- ✓ On July 1, 2024, the increase to Puerto Rico's minimum wage will be ten dollars and fifty cents per hour (\$10.50/hr).

These actions may be amended unless the Minimum Wage Assessment Commission issues a mandatory decree varying it. Tipped employees shall be entitled to the federal minimum wage in effect for such employees, which, when added to tips, shall be at least the minimum wage established in the State Law or in such mandatory ordinance as may be approved.

If this law is amended as to the minimum wage established, the ALDLMD will accept them without the need to amend this Public Policy.

### **IV. REQUIRED ACTION**

The Executive Officer of the Local Board shall be responsible for informing the administrative bodies of the Manatí/Dorado Local Workforce Development Area.

### **V. APPROVAL AND EFFECTIVENESS**

The Public Policy to Establish the State Minimum Wage Payment for Participants in the Youth, Adult and Dislocated Worker Programs of the Manatí/Dorado Local Workforce Development



**JUNTA LOCAL**  
DE DESARROLLO LABORAL  
MANATÍ / DORADO

Area shall be effective upon approval by the members of the Local Workforce Development Board and the Board of Directors of Mayors of the Manatí/Dorado Local Workforce Development Area.

In the city of \_\_\_\_\_, Puerto Rico, \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Miguel Vega-Rivera  
President  
Local Workforce Development Board

\_\_\_\_\_  
Hon. María Vega-Pagán  
President  
Board of Directors of Mayors

**Note: In this document the masculine gender will be used to refer to both genders in order to facilitate the reading of the document. This style of writing is not intended to imply the supremacy of one gender over the other.**