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California: Bill Raising Minimum Wage Is Approved

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS SEPT. 12, 2013

Both houses of the State Legislature have passed a bill that would increase the state's minimum wage to \$10 an hour within three years, making it one of the highest rates in the nation. Washington State has the top minimum wage at \$9.19 an hour, an amount that is pegged to rise with inflation, and some cities, including San Francisco, have slightly higher minimum wages. The Senate approved the bill on a 26-to-11 vote, and the Assembly followed hours later on a 51-to-25 vote, both largely along party lines. Gov. Jerry Brown said this week that he would sign the bill, calling it a overdue legislation that would help working-class families. The bill, which would gradually raise California's minimum wage from the current \$8 an hour to \$10 by 2016, would be the first minimum wage increase here in six years. It comes amid a national debate over whether it is fair to pay fast-food workers, retail clerks and others wages so low that they often have to work second or third jobs.

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