



2001 SENATE BILL 359

December 27, 2001 – Introduced by Senators CHVALA, HANSEN, PLACHE and RISSER, cosponsored by Representatives JOHNSRUD, MILLER, YOUNG, MUSSER, REYNOLDS, BERCEAU, POCAN, J. LEHMAN, RYBA, LASSA, BOCK and MORRIS-TATUM. Referred to Committee on Labor and Agriculture.

1 **AN ACT** *to repeal* 103.01 (title), 103.68 (3) and 103.935 (2) and (3); *to renumber*
2 103.01 (1), 103.01 (2), 103.01 (3), 103.935 (1) (intro.), 103.935 (1) (a) and 103.935
3 (1) (b); *to renumber and amend* 103.01 (intro.), 103.02, 103.03 and 103.935
4 (1) (c); *to amend* 103.025 (2), 103.66 (2), 103.74 (2), 103.82 (1) (b), 109.09 (1),
5 111.322 (2m) (a) and 111.322 (2m) (b); and *to create* 103.02 (4), 103.021,
6 103.024 (3), 103.685 and 103.937 of the statutes; **relating to:** rest and meal
7 periods for employees and providing a penalty.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, employees engaged in certain types of employment (generally at factories or mercantile establishments) may not work or be permitted to work for periods that are dangerous to their health. Current law also specifically requires that an employee under the age of 18 receive a meal break if the employee works for six or more consecutive hours. Further, a migrant worker may not be required to work for more than six consecutive hours without a meal break under current law, unless the work will be completed in less than seven hours. Migrant workers who are not engaged exclusively in agricultural labor are also entitled to a paid ten-minute rest period for each five hours of employment.

This bill requires all employers, including the state, to provide their employees, including migrant workers and minors, with a paid rest period of not less than 15

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minutes for each four hours worked in an eight-hour period and an unpaid meal period of not less than 30 minutes for six or more consecutive hours of work, unless any of the following applies:

1. The employee is covered by a collective bargaining agreement that addresses the issues of rest periods and meal periods.

2. The employee, with the permission of his or her employer, works a shorter workday in lieu of taking a rest period or a meal period required under the bill.

3. The employee provides health care services, maintenance services, or personal care services for an ambulance service provider or a health care facility and is involved in an emergency situation.

4. The department of workforce development grants the employer a waiver of the rest period and meal period requirement based on a determination that providing a classification of employees a rest period or a meal period as required by the bill would cause a demonstrable decrease in the efficiency of employer's operations.

For further information see the *state and local* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

1 **SECTION 1.** 103.01 (title) of the statutes is repealed.

2 **SECTION 2.** 103.01 (intro.) of the statutes is renumbered 103.02 (1) (intro.) and
3 amended to read:

4 103.02 (1) (intro.) In ~~ss. 103.01 to 103.03~~ this section:

5 **SECTION 3.** 103.01 (1) of the statutes is renumbered 103.02 (1) (a).

6 **SECTION 4.** 103.01 (2) of the statutes is renumbered 103.02 (1) (b).

7 **SECTION 5.** 103.01 (3) of the statutes is renumbered 103.02 (1) (c).

8 **SECTION 6.** 103.02 of the statutes is renumbered 103.02 (2) and amended to
9 read:

10 103.02 (2) No person may be employed or be permitted to work in any place of
11 employment or at any employment for such period of time during any day, night, or
12 week, as is dangerous or prejudicial to the person's life, health, safety, or welfare. ~~The~~

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1 **(3)** Subject to s. 103.021, the department shall investigate, ascertain,
2 determine, and fix such reasonable classification, and promulgate rules fixing a
3 period of time, or hours of beginning and ending work during any day, night, or week,
4 which shall be necessary to protect the life, health, safety, or welfare of any person,
5 or to carry out the purposes of ss. ~~103.01 to 103.03~~ this section. The department shall,
6 by rule, classify such periods of time into periods to be paid for at regular rates and
7 periods to be paid for at the rate of at least ~~one and one-half~~ 1.5 times the regular
8 rates. Such investigations, classifications, and orders shall be made as provided in
9 s. 103.005 and the penalties under s. 103.005 (12) shall apply to and be imposed for
10 any violation of ss. ~~103.01 to 103.03~~. Such orders shall be subject to review in the
11 manner provided in ch. 227. ~~Section 111.322 (2m) applies to discharge or other~~
12 ~~discriminatory acts arising in connection with any proceeding under this section.~~

13 **SECTION 7.** 103.02 (4) of the statutes is created to read:

14 103.02 (4) The employment of any person in any employment or place of
15 employment at any time other than the permissible hours of labor under this section
16 is prima facie evidence of a violation of this section.

17 **SECTION 8.** 103.021 of the statutes is created to read:

18 **103.021 Rest and meal periods. (1)** In this section:

19 (a) "Employer" means a person engaging in any activity, enterprise, or business
20 in this state employing at least one individual. "Employer" includes the state and
21 any office, department, independent agency, authority, institution, association,
22 society, or other body in state or local government created or authorized to be created
23 by the constitution or any law, including the legislature and the courts.

24 (b) "Health care facility" means a facility, as defined in s. 647.01 (4), or any
25 hospital, nursing home, community-based residential facility, county home, county

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1 infirmary, county hospital, county mental health complex, assisted living facility,
2 residential care apartment complex, rural medical center, hospice, treatment
3 facility, or other place licensed, certified, or approved by the department of health
4 and family services under s. 49.70, 49.71, 49.72, 50.02, 50.03, 50.034, 50.35, 50.52,
5 50.90, 51.04, 51.08, or 51.09, an adult family home licensed or certified by the
6 department of health and family services or a county department of human services
7 or social services under s. 50.032 or 50.033, or a facility under s. 45.365, 51.05, 51.06,
8 or 252.10 or under ch. 233.

9 (2) Except as provided in sub. (5), an employer shall provide its employees with
10 all of the following:

11 (a) A rest period of not less than 15 minutes for each 4 hours of work, not
12 including meal periods under par. (b), within an 8-hour period.

13 (b) A meal period of not less than 30 minutes, in addition to any rest period
14 under par. (a), for each 6 or more consecutive hours of work, including rest periods.

15 (3) An employer shall provide compensation to an employee who is on a rest
16 period under sub. (2) (a) at the applicable rate of pay for the employee when the rest
17 period occurs.

18 (4) The department shall determine whether the rest periods and meal periods
19 required under sub. (2) are counted as hours worked for purposes of ss. 66.0903,
20 103.49, and 103.50.

21 (5) Subsections (2) and (3) do not apply to any of the following:

22 (a) An employee who is covered under a collective bargaining agreement that
23 addresses the issues of rest periods and meal periods.

24 (b) A minor employee whose rest periods or meal periods are regulated under
25 s. 103.685.

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1 (c) A migrant worker whose rest periods or meal periods are regulated under
2 s. 103.937.

3 (d) An employee who, upon request of the employee or the collective bargaining
4 representative of the employee, is permitted by his or her employer to work a shorter
5 workday in lieu of taking a rest period required under sub. (2) (a) or a meal period
6 required under sub. (2) (b).

7 (e) An employee who is in a job classification for which the department has
8 granted a waiver under sub. (6).

9 (f) In cases of emergency, an employee of an ambulance service provider, as
10 defined in s. 146.50 (1) (c), or a health care facility who provides health care, as
11 defined in s. 155.01 (3), services, maintenance services, as defined in s. 647.01 (5),
12 or personal care services, as defined in s. 647.01 (8). In this paragraph, "emergency"
13 means a sudden and unexpected situation that could not reasonably have been
14 anticipated or prevented in which a person is in imminent danger of death or serious
15 physical or mental injury unless immediate action is taken.

16 **(6)** The department may grant an employer a waiver exempting employees in
17 a job classification from the requirements under subs. (2) and (3) if the department
18 determines that providing a rest period or a meal period to employees in that
19 classification would cause a demonstrable decrease in the efficiency of the employer's
20 operations. The determination of the department shall be subject to review in the
21 manner provided in ch. 227.

22 **SECTION 9.** 103.024 (3) of the statutes is created to read:

23 103.024 **(3)** Section 111.322 (2m) applies to discharge or other discriminatory
24 acts arising in connection with any proceedings under s. 103.02 or 103.021.

25 **SECTION 10.** 103.025 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

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1 103.025 (2) An employer described in s. ~~103.01 (1) (b)~~ 103.02 (1) (a) 2. may
2 provide an employee, in lieu of overtime compensation, compensatory time off as
3 permitted under 29 USC 207 (o), as amended to April 15, 1986.

4 **SECTION 11.** 103.03 of the statutes is renumbered 103.024 (1) and amended to
5 read:

6 103.024 (1) ~~The employment of any person in any employment or place of~~
7 ~~employment at any time other than the permissible hours of labor shall be prima~~
8 ~~facie evidence of a violation of this section.~~ An employer that violates s. 103.02 or
9 103.021 is subject to the penalties imposed under s. 103.005 (12).

10 (2) Every day for each person employed, and every week for each person
11 employed, during which any employer fails to observe or to comply with any order
12 of the department, or to perform any duty enjoined by ~~ss. 103.01 to 103.03~~ required
13 under s. 103.02 or 103.021, shall constitute a separate offense.

14 **SECTION 12.** 103.66 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

15 103.66 (2) The Subject to s. 103.685, the department may investigate and fix
16 reasonable classifications of employments and hours of employment for minors and
17 may issue general or special orders fixing maximum hours of employment for minors
18 per day and per week, maximum days of employment per week, hours at which
19 employment shall begin and end, and the duration of ~~lunch and other~~ rest periods
20 and meal periods as are necessary to protect the life, health, safety, and welfare of
21 minors.

22 **SECTION 13.** 103.68 (3) of the statutes is repealed.

23 **SECTION 14.** 103.685 of the statutes is created to read:

24 **103.685 Rest and meal periods; minors.** (1) An employer of a minor shall
25 provide the minor with all of the following:

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1 (a) A rest period of not less than 15 minutes for each 4 hours of work, not
2 including meal periods under par. (b), within an 8-hour period.

3 (b) A meal period of not less than 30 minutes, in addition to any rest period
4 under par. (a), for each 6 or more consecutive hours of work, including rest periods.

5 (2) An employer shall provide compensation to a minor employee who is on a
6 rest period under sub. (1) (a) at the applicable rate of pay for the minor employee
7 when the rest period occurs.

8 (3) A meal period under sub. (1) (b) shall commence reasonably close to 6 a.m.,
9 12 noon, 6 p.m., or 12 midnight or approximately midway of any work period or at
10 such other times as may be considered reasonable by the department.

11 (4) Subsections (1) to (3) do not apply to a minor employee who is covered by
12 a collective bargaining agreement that addresses the issues of rest periods and meal
13 periods.

14 **SECTION 15.** 103.74 (2) of the statutes is amended to read:

15 103.74 (2) Keep a record for each employed minor of the minor's name, address,
16 date of birth, ~~the time of beginning and ending work and the~~ each day, time for meals
17 and rest periods each day, and ~~the~~ total hours worked each day and each week.

18 **SECTION 16.** 103.82 (1) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

19 103.82 (1) (b) In addition to the penalties provided in par. (a), any employer who
20 employs any minor in violation of s. 103.68 or 103.685, or rules of the department
21 shall be liable, in addition to the wages paid, to pay to each minor affected, an amount
22 equal to twice the regular rate of pay as liquidated damages, for all hours worked in
23 violation per day or per week, whichever is greater.

24 **SECTION 17.** 103.935 (1) (intro.) of the statutes is renumbered 103.935 (intro.).

25 **SECTION 18.** 103.935 (1) (a) of the statutes is renumbered 103.935 (1m).

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1 **SECTION 19.** 103.935 (1) (b) of the statutes is renumbered 103.935 (2m).

2 **SECTION 20.** 103.935 (1) (c) of the statutes is renumbered 103.935 (3m) and
3 amended to read:

4 103.935 (**3m**) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a migrant worker from
5 voluntarily exceeding the limits prescribed by ~~pars. (a) and (b)~~ subs. (1m) and (2m).

6 **SECTION 21.** 103.935 (2) and (3) of the statutes are repealed.

7 **SECTION 22.** 103.937 of the statutes is created to read:

8 **103.937 Rest and meal periods; migrant workers. (1)** An employer of a
9 migrant worker shall provide the migrant worker with all of the following:

10 (a) A rest period of not less than 15 minutes for each 4 hours of work, not
11 including meal periods under par. (b), within an 8-hour period.

12 (b) A meal period of not less than 30 minutes, in addition to any rest period
13 under par. (a), for each 6 or more consecutive hours of work, including rest periods.

14 **(2)** An employer shall provide compensation to a migrant worker who is on a
15 rest period under sub. (1) (a) at the applicable rate of pay for the migrant worker
16 when the rest period occurs.

17 **(3)** Subsections (1) and (2) do not apply to any of the following:

18 (a) A migrant worker who is covered under a collective bargaining agreement
19 that addresses the issues of rest periods and meal periods.

20 (b) A minor migrant worker whose rest periods or meal periods are regulated
21 under s. 103.685.

22 (c) A migrant worker who, upon request of the migrant worker or the collective
23 bargaining representative of the migrant worker, is permitted by his or her employer
24 to work a shorter workday in lieu of taking a rest period required under sub. (1) (a)
25 or a meal period required under sub. (1) (b).

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1 (d) A migrant worker who is in a job classification for which the department has
2 granted a waiver under sub. (4).

3 (4) The department may grant a waiver exempting migrant workers in a job
4 classification from the requirements under subs. (1) and (2) if the department
5 determines that providing a rest period or a meal period to migrant workers in that
6 classification would cause a demonstrable decrease in the efficiency of the employer's
7 operations. The determination of the department shall be subject to review in the
8 manner provided in ch. 227.

9 **SECTION 23.** 109.09 (1) of the statutes is amended to read:

10 109.09 (1) The department shall investigate and attempt equitably to adjust
11 controversies between employers and employees as to alleged wage claims. The
12 department may receive and investigate any wage claim which is filed with the
13 department, or received by the department under s. 109.10 (4), no later than 2 years
14 after the date the wages are due. The department may, after receiving a wage claim,
15 investigate any wages due from the employer against whom the claim is filed to any
16 employee during the period commencing 2 years before the date the claim is filed.
17 The department shall enforce this chapter and ss. 66.0903, 103.02, 103.021, 103.49,
18 103.82, 104.12, and 229.8275. In pursuance of this duty, the department may sue the
19 employer on behalf of the employee to collect any wage claim or wage deficiency and
20 ss. 109.03 (6) and 109.11 (2) and (3) shall apply to such actions. Except for actions
21 under s. 109.10, the department may refer such an action to the district attorney of
22 the county in which the violation occurs for prosecution and collection and the
23 district attorney shall commence an action in the circuit court having appropriate
24 jurisdiction. Any number of wage claims or wage deficiencies against the same
25 employer may be joined in a single proceeding, but the court may order separate

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1 trials or hearings. In actions that are referred to a district attorney under this
2 subsection, any taxable costs recovered by the district attorney shall be paid into the
3 general fund of the county in which the violation occurs and used by that county to
4 meet its financial responsibility under s. 978.13 (2) for the operation of the office of
5 the district attorney who prosecuted the action.

6 **SECTION 24.** 111.322 (2m) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

7 111.322 **(2m)** (a) The individual files a complaint or attempts to enforce any
8 right under s. 103.02, 103.021, 103.10, 103.13, 103.28, 103.32, 103.455, 103.50,
9 104.12, 109.03, 109.07, 109.075, or 146.997 or ss. 101.58 to 101.599 or 103.64 to
10 103.82.

11 **SECTION 25.** 111.322 (2m) (b) of the statutes is amended to read:

12 111.322 **(2m)** (b) The individual testifies or assists in any action or proceeding
13 held under or to enforce any right under s. 103.02, 103.021, 103.10, 103.13, 103.28,
14 103.32, 103.455, 103.50, 104.12, 109.03, 109.07, 109.075, or 146.997 or ss. 101.58 to
15 101.599 or 103.64 to 103.82.

16 (END)