Explanatory Statement

City of Tacoma Initiative Measure No. 1B:

This measure, proposed by the Tacoma City Council as an alternative to Citizens' Initiative Measure No. 1 would add a new chapter to the Tacoma Municipal Code entitled “Minimum Wage.” This ordinance establishes a minimum hourly wage for all employees aged sixteen (16) and over performing more than 80 hours of work per calendar year in the City of Tacoma beginning February 2016. The ordinance establishes a minimum wage of not less than $10.35 per hour beginning February 1, 2016; $11.15 per hour beginning January 1, 2017; and $12.00 per hour beginning January 1, 2018, adjusted annually thereafter based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as calculated and used by the state of Washington at that time. Employers issued certificates from the Director of Labor and Industries for employment of "learners, apprentices, messengers, disabled" employees, are exempt from the minimum wage requirements.

The ordinance provides for City administration of the minimum wage requirements and prescribes civil remedies and enforcement procedures. An impact assessment of the minimum wage requirements on small businesses, minimum wage/low wage workers, and the City's economy is required in 2018 and every two years thereafter.

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