

Chapter 2.201 - LIVING WAGE PROGRAM

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Sections:

2.201.010 - Findings.

The board of supervisors finds that the county of Los Angeles is the principal provider of social and health services within the county, especially to persons who are compelled to turn to the county for such services. Employers' failure to pay a living wage to their employees causes them to use such services thereby placing an additional burden on the county of Los Angeles.

(Ord. 2007-0011 § 1, 2007: Ord. 99-0048 § 1 (part), 1999.)

2.201.020 - Definitions.

The general definitions contained in Chapter 2.02 shall be applicable to this Chapter unless inconsistent with the following definitions:

- A. "County" includes the County of Los Angeles, any County officer or body, any County department head, and any County employee authorized to enter into a Proposition A contract or a cafeteria services contract with an employer.
- B. "Employee" means any individual who is an employee of an employer under the laws of California, and who is providing full- or part-time services to an employer, some or all of which are provided to the County of Los Angeles under a Proposition A contract, or under a cafeteria services contract at a County of Los Angeles owned or leased facility.
- C. "Employer" means:
 - 1. An individual or entity who has a contract with the County:
 - a. For services which is required to be more economical or feasible under Section 44.7 of the Charter of the County of Los Angeles, and is not listed as

an excluded contract in Section 2.121.250 B of the Los Angeles County Code, referred to in this Chapter as a "Proposition A contract," or

- b. For cafeteria services, referred to in this Chapter as a "cafeteria services contract," and
- c. Who has received or will receive an aggregate sum of \$25,000.00 or more in any 12 month period under one or more Proposition A contracts and/or one or more cafeteria services contracts; or

2. An individual or entity that enters into a subcontract with an employer, as defined in subsection C1 and who employs employees to provide services under the employer's contract with the County.

- D. "Full time" means a minimum 40 hours worked per week, or a lesser number of hours, if the lesser number is a recognized industry standard and is approved as such by the Chief Executive Officer, but in no event less than 35 hours worked per week.
- E. "Part time" means less than 40 hours worked per week, unless a lesser number is a recognized industry standard and is approved as such by the Chief Executive Officer.
- F. "Proposition A contract" means a contract governed by Title 2, Section 2.121.250 et seq., of this code, entitled Contracting with Private Business.

(Ord. 2015-0061 § 1, 2015: Ord. 2007-0011 § 2, 2007: Ord. 99-0048 § 1 (part), 1999.)

2.201.030 - Prospective effect.

This chapter shall be applicable to Proposition A contracts and cafeteria services contracts and their amendments the terms of which commence three months or more after the effective date of this chapter. ¹⁶ It shall not be applicable to Proposition A contracts or cafeteria services contracts or their amendments in effect before this chapter becomes applicable.

(Ord. 99-0048 § 1 (part), 1999.)

2.201.040 - Payment of living wage.

- A. Employers shall pay employees a living wage for their services provided to the County of no less than the hourly rate set under this Chapter or in Title 8—Consumer Protection, Business and Wage Regulations, commencing with Section 8.100.010, whichever is higher. The rate shall be as follows:
 - 1. On March 1, 2016, and thereafter the rate shall be \$13.25 per hour;
 - 2. On January 1, 2017, and thereafter the rate shall be \$14.25 per hour;

16) --- **Editor's note**—Ordinance 99-0048, which enacted Ch. 2.201, is effective on July 22, 1999.

3. On January 1, 2018, and thereafter the rate shall be \$15.00 per hour;
 4. On January 1, 2019, and thereafter the rate shall be \$ 15.79 per hour;
 5. Beginning January 1, 2020, and thereafter the living wage rate shall increase annually based on the average Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Works (CPI-W) for the Los Angeles metropolitan area (Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, CA), which is published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor.
- B. The Board of Supervisors may, from time to time, adjust the amounts specified in subsection A of this Section, above for future contracts. Any adjustments to the living wage rate specified in subsection A that are adopted by the Board of Supervisors shall be applicable to Proposition A contracts and cafeteria services contracts and their amendments.

(Ord. 2015-0061 § 2, 2015: Ord. 2007-0011 § 3, 2007: Ord. 99-0048 § 1 (part), 1999.)

2.201.050 - Other provisions.

- A. Full Time Employees. An employer shall assign and use full time employees to provide services under a Proposition A contract or a cafeteria services contract, unless the employer can demonstrate to the County the necessity to use non-full time employees based on staffing efficiency or the County requirements of an individual job.
- B. Neutrality in Labor Relations. An employer shall not use any consideration received under a Proposition A contract or a cafeteria services contract to hinder, or to further, organization of, or collective bargaining activities by or on behalf of an employer's employees, except that this restriction shall not apply to any expenditure made in the course of good faith collective bargaining, or to any expenditure pursuant to obligations incurred under a bona fide collective bargaining agreement, or which would otherwise be permitted under the provisions of the National Labor Relations Act.
- C. Administration. The Chief Executive Officer and the Internal Services Department shall be responsible for the administration of this chapter. The Chief Executive Officer and the Internal Services Department may, with the advice of County Counsel, issue interpretations of the provisions of this chapter. The Chief Executive Officer in conjunction with the Internal Services Department shall issue written instructions on the implementation and ongoing administration of this Chapter. Such instructions may provide for the delegation of functions to other County departments.
- D. Compliance Certification. An employer shall, during the term of a Proposition A contract, or a cafeteria services contract, report for each employee and certify the hours worked, wages paid, and provide other information deemed relevant to the

enforcement of this Chapter by the County. Such reports shall be made at the times and in the manner set forth in instructions issued by the Chief Executive Officer in conjunction with the Internal Services Department. The Internal Services Department in conjunction with the Chief Executive Officer shall report annually to the Board of Supervisors on contractor compliance with the provisions of this Chapter.

- E. Contractor Standards. An employer shall demonstrate during the procurement process and for the duration of a Proposition A contract or a cafeteria services contract a history of business stability, integrity in employee relations, and the financial ability to pay a living wage.

(Ord. 2015-0061 § 3, 2015: Ord. 2011-0066 § 3, 2011: Ord. 99-0048 § 1 (part), 1999.)

2.201.060 - Employer retaliation prohibited.

No employer shall take an adverse action causing a loss of any benefit of employment, of any contract benefit, or any statutory benefit to any employee, person, or other entity, who has reported a violation of this chapter to the board of supervisors or to one or more of their offices, to the county chief administrative officer, or to the county auditor controller, or to the county department administering the Proposition A contract or cafeteria services contract.

(Ord. 99-0048 § 1 (part), 1999.)

2.201.070 - Employee retention rights.

In the event that any Proposition A contract or cafeteria service contract is terminated by the county prior to its expiration, any new contract with a subsequent employer for such services shall provide for the employment of the predecessor employer's employees as provided in this section.

- A. A "retention employee" is an employee of a predecessor employer:
 - 1. Who is not an exempt employee under the minimum wage and maximum hour exemptions defined in the federal Fair Labor Standards Act;
 - 2. Who has been employed by an employer under a predecessor Proposition A contract or a predecessor cafeteria services contract for at least six months prior to the date of a new contract; and
 - 3. Who is or will be terminated from his or her employment as a result of the county entering into a new contract.
- B. Subsequent employers shall offer employment to all retention employees who are qualified for such jobs.

- C. A subsequent employer is not required to hire a retention employee who:
 - 1. Has been convicted of a crime related to the job or his or her job performance; or
 - 2. Fails to meet any other county requirement for employees of a contractor.
- D. A subsequent employer may not terminate a retention employee for the first 90 days of employment under a new contract, except for cause. Thereafter a subsequent employer may retain a retention employee on the same terms and conditions as the subsequent employer's other employees.

(Ord. 99-0048 § 1 (part), 1999.)

2.201.080 - Enforcement and remedies.

For violation of any of the provisions of this chapter:

- A. An employee may bring an action in the courts of the state of California for damages caused by an employer's violation of this chapter.
- B. The county department head responsible for administering a Proposition A contract or a cafeteria services contract may do one or more of the following in accordance with such instructions as may be issued by the chief administrative officer:
 - 1. Assess liquidated damages as provided in the contract; and/or
 - 2. Recommend to the board of supervisors the termination of the contract; and/or
 - 3. Recommend to the board of supervisors that an employer be barred from award of future county contracts for a period of time consistent with the seriousness of the employer's violation of this chapter, in accordance with Section 2.202.040 of this code.

(Ord. 2007-0011 § 4, 2007; Ord. 99-0048 § 1 (part), 1999.)

2.201.090 - Exceptions.

- A. Other Laws. This Chapter shall not be interpreted or applied to any employer or to any employee in a manner inconsistent with United States or California laws.
- B. Collective Bargaining Agreements. Any provision of this Chapter shall be superseded by a collective bargaining agreement that expressly so provides.

(Ord. 2015-0061 § 4, 2015; Ord. 99-0055 § 1, 1999; Ord. 99-0048 § 1 (part), 1999.)

2.201.100 - Severability.

If any provision of this chapter is found invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

(Ord. 99-0048 § 1 (part), 1999.)