



New Hampshire Senate **NEWS RELEASE**

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Bradley bill helps restaurant industry battered by the pandemic *SB137 clarifies minimum wage rate for employees earning tips*

CONCORD, NH – The Commerce Committee today heard testimony on SB137, legislation setting a minimum wage for workers who earn tips without hurting the businesses that employ them, particularly restaurants.

Majority Leader Jeb Bradley (R-Wolfeboro), the bill's prime sponsor, called SB137 important for restaurants that are currently struggling due to the pandemic. He said, "We all have a favorite place to eat that has either been forced to close or is barely hanging on right now. This bill responds to the current push to increase the federal minimum wage to \$15 per hour. Without SB137, restaurant costs could increase dramatically just at a time when they have the chance to come back."

Bradley said, "SB137 sets the tipped minimum wage as a fixed dollar amount, instead of a percentage, so even if Washington makes repeated changes to the minimum wage, the tipped wage in New Hampshire would stay the same. This will allow Granite State restaurants to offer a minimum wage to their tipped employees at a rate that is competitive and allows them to attract the best workers without a mandate from the federal government."

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