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MEMORANDUM

TO: Nancy Morehead and Duy Pham
FROM: Legislative Council Staff and Office of Legislative Legal Services
DATE: February 29, 2016
SUBJECT: Proposed initiative measure 2015-2016 #102, concerning the state minimum wage

Section 1-40-105 (1), Colorado Revised Statutes, requires the directors of the Colorado Legislative Council and the Office of Legislative Legal Services to "review and comment" on initiative petitions for proposed laws and amendments to the Colorado constitution. We hereby submit our comments to you regarding the appended proposed initiative.

The purpose of this statutory requirement of the directors of Legislative Council and the Office of Legislative Legal Services is to provide comments intended to aid proponents in determining the language of their proposal and to avail the public of knowledge of the contents of the proposal. Our first objective is to be sure we understand your intent and your objective in proposing the amendment. We hope that the statements and questions contained in this memorandum will provide a basis for discussion and understanding of the proposal.

This initiative was submitted with a series of initiatives including proposed initiative 2015-2016 #101. The comments and questions raised in this memorandum will not include comments and questions that were addressed in the memoranda for proposed initiative 2015-2016 #101, except as necessary to fully understand the issues raised by the revised proposed initiative. Comments and questions addressed in the other memorandum may also be relevant, and those questions and comments are hereby incorporated by reference in this memorandum. Only new comments and questions are included in this memorandum.

Purposes

The major purposes of the proposed amendment to the **Colorado constitution** appear to be:

1. To increase Colorado's minimum wage to \$9.30 per hour, effective January 1, 2017; and
2. To further increase Colorado's minimum wage by \$0.90 per hour at the beginning of every year, until the minimum wage is equal to \$12.00 per hour.

Substantive Comments and Questions

The substance of the proposed initiative raises the following question:

1. The proposed initiative changes the wording for the annual adjustment after the minimum wage reaches \$12 per hour from an “adjustment” to “an increase” for inflation. What will be the substantive effect of this change in terms of the amount of the annual increase?

Technical Comments

There are no new technical comments and questions raised in this memorandum that were not addressed in the memorandum for proposed initiative 2015-2016 #101.