

# GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

## Department of Employment Services

MURIEL BOWSER  
MAYOR



DEBORAH A. CARROLL  
ACTING DIRECTOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Thursday, February 26, 2015

Media Contact: Christina Tucker  
(202) 671-1163 (O)  
(202) 607-0542 (C)

### **DC's Wage Theft Prevention Amendment Act of 2014 Takes Effect February 26, 2015** *Office of Wage-Hour to Conduct Public Education Campaign for Employers and Employees*

**Washington, DC** – The DC Department of Employment Services (DOES) announced that the District of Columbia's Wage Theft Prevention Amendment Act of 2014 (the "Act") has cleared the congressional 30-day review period and becomes effective today, February 26, 2015. The Act makes broad changes to DC's wage and hour laws, which include the Minimum Wage Act Revision Act, the Living Wage Act, the Wage Payment and Wage Collection Law, and the Accrued Sick and Safe Leave Act.

The purpose of the Act is to enhance remedies, fines, administrative penalties, and enforcement of wage payment and collection laws by increasing the accountability of employers and strengthening worker protection laws. Specifically, the Act increases penalties for employers who commit wage-hour violations; provides anti-retaliation protections for workers who hold employers accountable for failing to pay wages owed; establishes a formal hearing process with enforceable judgments; and provides for better access to legal representation for victims of wage payment violations, while making it easier for workers to collect awards from businesses who fail to pay, either in whole or in part, an employee's regular wages.

DOES's Office of Wage-Hour (OWH) will conduct a comprehensive public education campaign for employers and employees in the coming weeks that includes webinars, conference calls, and information sessions. A tentative calendar of events for the upcoming information sessions is posted on the DOES website at [www.does.dc.gov](http://www.does.dc.gov).

For more information on the new Wage Theft Prevention Amendment Act of 2014, Minimum Wage Act Revision Act, the Living Wage Act, the Wage Payment and Wage Collection Law, and the Accrued Sick and Safe Leave Act, including fact sheets, Act summaries, and legislation text, please visit [www.does.dc.gov](http://www.does.dc.gov).

##

#### **About DOES:**

The mission of the Department of Employment Services is to plan, develop, and administer employment-related services to all segments of the Washington, DC metropolitan population. We achieve our mission through empowering and sustaining a diverse workforce, which enables all sectors of the community to achieve economic and social stability.