



# Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street  
Chicago, IL

## Legislation Text

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### PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

#### AMENDMENT TO TAX INCENTIVE ORDINANCE

**BE IT ORDAINED**, by the Cook County Board of Commissioners, that Chapter 74 Taxation, Article II Real Property Taxation, Division 2. - Classification System For Assessment, Sec. 74-71, of the Cook County Code is hereby amended as follows:

#### Sec. 74-71

##### (a) Living wage requirement.

- (1) Unless expressly waived by the County Board, any Employer occupying a property that receives a property tax incentive for Class 6b industrial property, Class 8 industrial property, or Class 9 multifamily residential property shall pay not less than the Living Wage, as defined in the Cook County Procurement Code (*Cook County, Ill., Code, Ch. 34, Art. IV, Div. 1 § 34-121*), to each of its onsite Employees, unless such Employees' Wages are governed by Federal or State prevailing wage law. For purposes of this Section, the term "Employee" shall mean an employee who performs duties or services for an Employer on average at least 30 hours per week in any two week period for which the Employee is paid; "hours per week" shall mean hours for which an employee is paid or is entitled to payment by the Employer for a period of time during which no duties are performed by the Employee due to vacation, holiday, illness, incapacity, jury duty, military duty or approved leave of absence.
- (2) On and after July 1, 2020, the owner of any property that receives a property tax incentive shall notify all Employers who occupy such property as lessees of the requirements of this Section. Upon commencement of a lease, on or after July 1, 2020, of a property that receives a property tax incentive, any new lessee shall be required to submit to the municipality or the Cook County Board, as the case may be, an affidavit stating that such lessee is paying a Living Wage to its Employees in compliance with this Section. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, the requirements of this Section shall not apply to an Employer who was a lessee and not an owner-occupant of a property that receives a property tax incentive prior to July 1, 2020.
- (23) This Section shall not apply to Employers that are not-for-profit organizations or funded by Federal grants or Federal loans or Employers who are lessees but are not owners of a property that receives a property tax incentive prior to adoption of this amended Ordinance. Further, this Section shall not apply to Employers who can demonstrate to the County Board that compliance with the requirements of this Section would cause such Employer to be in violation of the terms of a collective bargaining agreement between the Employer and a labor union.
- (4) Every Employer required to pay the Living Wage shall notify its Employees of the Living Wage requirement and shall notify all of its Employees annually of any adjustment to the Living Wage. In addition, the Employer shall notify its Employees that if any Employee contends that the Employer is not paying a Living Wage or has otherwise violated this section, that Employee may file a complaint with the Cook County Commission on Human Rights ("Commission"). The Commission shall investigate alleged violations of the Living Wage Ordinance and is authorized to adopt regulations for the proper administration and enforcement of its provisions. If at the conclusion of the Commission's investigation, the Commission finds that the Employer has violated this section, it shall (1) in the case of an Employer receiving a property tax incentive, notify the Assessor; or (2) in

the case of a Contractor or a subcontractor required to pay the Living Wage, notify the CPO, who shall exercise such remedies as are in the best interest of the County, including ordering the Employer to pay back pay and penalties, as provided in this section.

(35) If an Employer is found to be in violation of this section, such Employer may be required to pay back pay to each affected Employee, and may also be fined by the County up to \$100.00 for each affected Employee for each day paid at less than the Living Wage. Such penalties will not be imposed on any Person except after a hearing (*Cook County, Ill., Code, Ch. 2, Art. IX*). Further, if an Employer is found to be in violation of this section, the property tax incentive for this property is subject to revocation.

(46) If an Employer is found to have retaliated against an affected Employee, the Employer's property tax incentive may be terminated unless such Employer appropriately reinstates or compensates such Employee.

(57) For the purposes of this Section:

Property tax incentive means a reduction in the assessment level as set forth in Division 2 of this Article for Class 6b industrial property, Class 8 industrial property, or Class 9 multifamily residential property. "Property tax incentive" shall not include a Class 9 designation granted to supportive living facilities, which establish an alternative to nursing home care for low income older persons and persons with disabilities under Medicaid and which are certified by the State Department of Public Aid pursuant to Division 2 of this Article; and

Sales tax means the Retailer's Occupation Tax, the Service Occupation Tax and/or the Use Tax.

(68) *Living Wage Affidavit*

Every municipality or the Cook County Board that provides a Resolution or Ordinance or authorized officer letter, as the case may be, to an applicant for a Class 6b industrial property or a Class 8 industrial property tax incentive shall maintain in its files and records documentation that such municipality or the County Board received and filed the Living Wage Affidavit submitted by the owner or lessee of such property stating that such owner or lessee is paying a Living Wage to its Employees in compliance with this Section. Further, an applicant or lessee of a Class 9 multifamily residential property tax incentive shall provide the municipality or the Cook County Board, as the case may be, a Living Wage Affidavit which shall be maintained by such municipality or the Cook County Board in its files and records.

**(b) State or Federal Laws.**

(1) Except where a Person has requested an exception from the Assessor and the County Board expressly finds that granting the exception is in the best interest of the County, such Person including any Substantial Owner (as defined in *Cook County, Ill., Code, Ch. 34, Art. V § 34-367*) shall be ineligible to receive any property tax incentive noted in Division 2 of this Article if, during the five-year period prior to the date of the application, such Person or Substantial Owner (as defined in *Cook County, Ill., Code, Ch. 34, Art. V § 34-367*) admitted guilt or liability or has been adjudicated guilty or liable in any judicial or administrative proceeding of committing a repeated or willful violation of the Illinois Wage Payment and Collection Act, 820 ILCS 115/1 et seq., the Illinois Minimum Wage Act, 820 ILCS 105/1 et seq., the Illinois Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act, 820 ILCS 65/1 et seq., the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act, 29 U.S.C. 2101 et seq., the Employee Classification Act, 820 ILCS 185/1 et seq., the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, 29 U.S.C. 201, et seq., or any comparable state statute or regulation of any state, which governs the payment of wages.

(2) The Assessor shall obtain an affidavit or certification from every Person and Substantial Owner (as defined in *Cook County, Ill., Code, Ch. 34, Art. V § 34-367*) who seeks a property tax incentive from the County as noted in Division 2 of this Article certifying that the Person or Substantial Owner (as defined in *Cook County, Ill., Code, Ch. 34, Art. V § 34-367*) has not violated the statutory provisions identified in Subsection (a) of this Section.

- (3) If the County or Assessor becomes aware that a Person or Substantial Owner (as defined in *Cook County, Ill., Code, Ch. 34, Art. V § 34--367*) has admitted guilt or liability or has been adjudicated guilty or liable in any judicial or administrative proceeding of committing a repeated or willful violation of the Illinois Wage Payment and Collection Act, 820 ILCS 115/1 et seq., the Illinois Minimum Wage Act, 820 ILCS 105/1 et seq., the Illinois Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act, 820 ILCS 65/1 et seq., the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act, 29 U.S.C. 2101 et seq., the Employee Classification Act, 820 ILCS 185/1 et seq., the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, 29 U.S.C. 201, et seq., or any comparable state statute or regulation of any state, which governs the payment of wages during the five-year period prior to the date of the application, but after the County has reclassified the Person's or Substantial Owner's (as defined in *Cook County, Ill., Code, Ch. 34, Art. V § 34-367*)\_subject property under a property tax incentive classification, then, after notice from the Assessor of such violation, the Person or Substantial Owner shall have 45 days to cure its violation and request an exception or waiver from the Assessor. Failure to cure or obtain an exception or waiver of ineligibility from the Assessor shall serve as grounds for revocation of the classification as provided by the Assessor or by the County Board by Resolution or Ordinance. In case of revocation or cancellation, the Incentive Classification shall be deemed null and void for the tax year in which the incentive was revoked or cancelled as to the subject property. In such an instance, the taxpayer shall be liable for and shall reimburse to the County Collector an amount equal to the difference in the amount of taxes that would have been collected had the subject property not received the property tax incentive.

**Effective date:** This ordinance shall be in effect upon adoption.