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Minimum-wage bill moves on

SENATE EXPECTED TO ACT SOON

By Jack Brammer
HERALD-LEADER FRANKFORT BUREAU

FRANKFORT - A Senate committee next week plans to approve a House bill that would raise the minimum wage to \$7.25 an hour over the next two years.

"After meeting with Senate majority leadership, a decision was made to move forward with House Bill 305 regarding minimum wage," Sen. Alice Forgy Kerr, chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Tourism and Labor, said yesterday.

Kerr, R-Lexington, said a procedural move will make the bill available for action on the Senate floor early next week.

"I am pleased that the Senate is moving forward on this important issue with all deliberate speed," Kerr said. "I am confident that the working families of Kentucky will benefit from the passage of this legislation."

The measure is similar to bills that have passed both chambers of the U.S. Congress, but the federal bill has stalled because of disagreements over tax credits.

The state House bill calls for the current minimum wage of \$5.15 an hour to be raised to \$5.85 an hour when the bill is signed into law, to \$6.55 an hour in July 2008 and to \$7.25 an hour in July 2009.

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