A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 34-06-22 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the state's minimum wage.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 34-06-22 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

34-06-22. State minimum wage rate.

1. Except as otherwise provided under this chapter and rules adopted by the commissioner, every employer shall pay to each of the employer's employees:
   a. Effective July 24, 2007, January 1, 2018, a wage of at least five dollars and eighty-five cents per hour;
   b. Effective July 24, 2008, a wage of at least six dollars and fifty-five cents per hour;
   and
   c. Effective July 24, 2009, a wage of at least seven dollars and twenty-five cents per hour.
   January 1, 2019, and annually thereafter, a wage identified by the commissioner which is adjusted by the increase, if any, in the cost of living.

2. Annually, the commissioner shall adjust the wage as provided under subsection 1.
   The commissioner shall calculate the increase in the cost of living by measuring the percentage increase as of August of the immediately preceding year over the level as measured as of August of the previous year of the consumer price index for all urban consumers (all items, United States city average) as published by the bureau of labor statistics of the department of labor, with the amount of the minimum wage increase, if any, rounded up to the nearest five cents. Under no circumstances may the commissioner decrease the minimum wage. By October 15 of each year, the
commissioner shall publish the adjusted minimum wage for the upcoming year on the commissioner's internet home page.

3. This section does not limit the authority of the commissioner to adopt rules establishing a state minimum wage rate that differs from is higher than the rates established under subsection 1.