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[20098001]

The House voted to boost the federal minimum wage for the first time since early 1981 , casting a solid 382-37 vote for a compromise measure backed by President Bush .

[20098002]

The vote came after a debate replete with complaints from both proponents and critics of a substantial increase in the wage floor .

[20098003]

Advocates said the 90-cent-an-hour rise , to \$ 4.25 an hour by April 1991 , is too small for the working poor , while opponents argued that the increase will still hurt small business and cost many thousands of jobs .

[20098004]

But the legislation reflected a compromise agreed to on Tuesday by President Bush and Democratic leaders in Congress , after congressional Republicans urged the White House to bend a bit from its previous resistance to compromise .

[20098005]

So both sides accepted the compromise , which would lead to the first lifting of the minimum wage since a four-year law was enacted in 1977 , raising the wage to \$ 3.35 an hour from \$ 2.65 .

[20098006]

Under the measure passed yesterday , the minimum wage would rise to \$ 3.80 next April .

[20098007]

The Senate plans to take up the measure quickly and is expected to pass it .

[20098012]

Adopting a training-wage policy means " getting beyond the nickel and dining of the minimum wage , " Mrs. Roukema said .

[20098013]

Policy makers regard the youth wage as helping to limit the loss of jobs from an increase in the minimum wage , but they have lately touted it as necessary to help impart job skills to entrants into the work force .

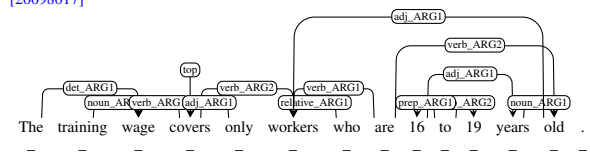
[20098014]

Labor unions and Democrats long fought the idea , but recently acceded to it in the face of Bush administration insistence .

[20098015]

The compromise sets the training wage at \$ 3.35 an hour next April , and at \$ 3.61 an hour , or 85 % of the minimum wage , in April 1991 .

[20098017]



[20098018]

