

Senate Bill No. 88

CHAPTER 492

An act to amend Sections 512, 515, and 516 of, and to add Section 515.5 to, the Labor Code, relating to employment, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

[Approved by Governor September 16, 2000. Filed
with Secretary of State September 19, 2000.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 88, Sher. Overtime compensation.

(1) Existing law provides that 8 hours of labor constitutes a day's work. Under existing law, any work in excess of 8 hours in one workday and any work in excess of 40 hours in any one workweek and the first 8 hours worked on the 7th day of work in any one workweek is required to be compensated at the rate of no less than 1¹/₂ times the regular rate of pay for an employee.

This bill, except as specified, would exempt a professional employee in the computer software field from this overtime compensation requirement if the employee is primarily engaged in work that is intellectual or creative, the employee's hourly rate of pay is not less than \$41.00, and the employee meets other requirements.

(2) Existing law authorizes the Industrial Welfare Commission to establish exemptions from the requirement that an overtime rate of compensation be paid for executive, administrative, and professional employees, provided that the employee is primarily engaged in the duties that meet the test of the exemption and the employee earns a monthly salary equivalent to no less than 2 times the state minimum wage for full-time employment.

This bill would further require the executive, administrative, or professional employee to customarily and regularly exercise discretion and independent judgment in performing those duties in order to qualify for the exemption.

(3) Existing law provides that registered nurses employed to engage in the practice of nursing shall not be exempted from the overtime compensation requirements by any order of the commission, unless they individually meet the criteria for exemption established for executive or administrative employees.

This bill would provide that the exclusion from overtime exemptions for a registered nurse does not apply to a certified nurse midwife, a certified nurse anesthetist, or a certified nurse practitioner who is primarily engaged in performing duties for which the respective certification is required.

(4) Existing law authorizes the commission to adopt or amend working condition orders with respect to meal periods. Other existing law prohibits, except as provided, an employer from employing an employee for more than 5 hours per day without providing the employee with a meal period of not less than 30 minutes, or for employing an employee for more than 10 hours per day without providing the employee with a 2nd meal period of not less than 30 minutes.

This bill would prohibit the commission from adopting a working condition order that conflicts with those 30-minute meal period requirements, except that the commission may adopt a working condition order permitting a meal period to commence after 6 hours of work if the commission makes a specified determination.

(5) This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 512 of the Labor Code is amended to read:

512. (a) An employer may not employ an employee for a work period of more than five hours per day without providing the employee with a meal period of not less than 30 minutes, except that if the total work period per day of the employee is no more than six hours, the meal period may be waived by mutual consent of both the employer and employee. An employer may not employ an employee for a work period of more than 10 hours per day without providing the employee with a second meal period of not less than 30 minutes, except that if the total hours worked is no more than 12 hours, the second meal period may be waived by mutual consent of the employer and the employee only if the first meal period was not waived.

(b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), the Industrial Welfare Commission may adopt a working condition order permitting a meal period to commence after six hours of work if the commission determines that the order is consistent with the health and welfare of the affected employees.

SEC. 2. Section 515 of the Labor Code is amended to read:

515. (a) The Industrial Welfare Commission may establish exemptions from the requirement that an overtime rate of compensation be paid pursuant to Sections 510 and 511 for executive, administrative, and professional employees, provided that the employee is primarily engaged in the duties that meet the test of the exemption, customarily and regularly exercises discretion and independent judgment in performing those duties, and earns a monthly salary equivalent to no less than two times the state minimum wage for full-time employment. The commission shall conduct a review of the duties that meet the test of the exemption.



The commission may, based upon this review, convene a public hearing to adopt or modify regulations at that hearing pertaining to duties that meet the test of the exemption without convening wage boards. Any hearing conducted pursuant to this subdivision shall be concluded not later than July 1, 2000.

(b) (1) The commission may establish additional exemptions to hours of work requirements under this division where it finds that hours or conditions of labor may be prejudicial to the health or welfare of employees in any occupation, trade, or industry. This paragraph shall become inoperative on January 1, 2005.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in this section and in subdivision (g) of Section 511, nothing in this section requires the commission to alter any exemption from provisions regulating hours of work that was contained in any valid wage order in effect in 1997. Except as otherwise provided in this division, the commission may review, retain, or eliminate any exemption from provisions regulating hours of work that was contained in any valid wage order in effect in 1997.

(c) For the purposes of this section, “full-time employment” means employment in which an employee is employed for 40 hours per week.

(d) For the purpose of computing the overtime rate of compensation required to be paid to a nonexempt full-time salaried employee, the employee’s regular hourly rate shall be $\frac{1}{40}$ th of the employee’s weekly salary.

(e) For the purposes of this section, “primarily” means more than one-half of the employee’s worktime.

(f) (1) In addition to the requirements of subdivision (a), registered nurses employed to engage in the practice of nursing shall not be exempted from coverage under any part of the orders of the Industrial Welfare Commission, unless they individually meet the criteria for exemptions established for executive or administrative employees.

(2) This subdivision does not apply to any of the following:

(A) A certified nurse midwife who is primarily engaged in performing duties for which certification is required pursuant to Article 2.5 (commencing with Section 2746) of Chapter 6 of Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code.

(B) A certified nurse anesthetist who is primarily engaged in performing duties for which certification is required pursuant to Article 7 (commencing with Section 2825) of Chapter 6 of Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code.

(C) A certified nurse practitioner who is primarily engaged in performing duties for which certification is required pursuant to Article 8 (commencing with Section 2834) of Chapter 6 of Division 2 of the Business and Professions Code.



(D) Nothing in this paragraph shall exempt the occupations set forth in subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) from meeting the requirements of subdivision (a).

SEC. 3. Section 515.5 is added to the Labor Code, to read:

515.5. (a) Except as provided in subdivision (b), an employee in the computer software field shall be exempt from the requirement that an overtime rate of compensation be paid pursuant to Section 510 if all of the following apply:

(1) The employee is primarily engaged in work that is intellectual or creative and that requires the exercise of discretion and independent judgment, and the employee is primarily engaged in duties that consist of one or more of the following:

(A) The application of systems analysis techniques and procedures, including consulting with users, to determine hardware, software, or system functional specifications.

(B) The design, development, documentation, analysis, creation, testing, or modification of computer systems or programs, including prototypes, based on and related to, user or system design specifications.

(C) The documentation, testing, creation, or modification of computer programs related to the design of software or hardware for computer operating systems.

(2) The employee is highly skilled and is proficient in the theoretical and practical application of highly specialized information to computer systems analysis, programming, and software engineering. A job title shall not be determinative of the applicability of this exemption.

(3) The employee's hourly rate of pay is not less than forty-one dollars (\$41.00). The Division of Labor Statistics and Research shall adjust this pay rate on October 1 of each year to be effective on January 1 of the following year by an amount equal to the percentage increase in the California Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers.

(b) The exemption provided in subdivision (a) does not apply to an employee if any of the following apply:

(1) The employee is a trainee or employee in an entry-level position who is learning to become proficient in the theoretical and practical application of highly specialized information to computer systems analysis, programming, and software engineering.

(2) The employee is in a computer-related occupation but has not attained the level of skill and expertise necessary to work independently and without close supervision.

(3) The employee is engaged in the operation of computers or in the manufacture, repair, or maintenance of computer hardware and related equipment.

(4) The employee is an engineer, drafter, machinist, or other professional whose work is highly dependent upon or facilitated by



the use of computers and computer software programs and who is skilled in computer-aided design software, including CAD/CAM, but who is not in a computer systems analysis or programming occupation.

(5) The employee is a writer engaged in writing material, including box labels, product descriptions, documentation, promotional material, setup and installation instructions, and other similar written information, either for print or for onscreen media or who writes or provides content material intended to be read by customers, subscribers, or visitors to computer-related media such as the World Wide Web or CD-Roms.

(6) The employee is engaged in any of the activities set forth in subdivision (a) for the purpose of creating imagery for effects used in the motion picture, television, or theatrical industry.

SEC. 4. Section 516 of the Labor Code is amended to read:

516. Except as provided in Section 512, the Industrial Welfare Commission may adopt or amend working condition orders with respect to break periods, meal periods, and days of rest for any workers in California consistent with the health and welfare of those workers.

SEC. 5. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:

In order, at the earliest possible time, to protect businesses that rely on the computer industry as well as certain vital health care professions, it is necessary for this act to take effect immediately.

