

105TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1870

To amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to reform the provisions relating to child labor.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 12, 1997

Mr. LANTOS (for himself, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. BONIOR, Mr. BROWN of California, Ms. CARSON, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DELLUMS, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. EVANS, Mr. FALCOMA, Mr. FOGLETTA, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. FROST, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. MANTON, Mr. MILLER of California, Ms. NORTON, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. OLVER, Mr. OWENS, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. TORRES, Mr. VENTO, Ms. WOOLSEY, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Mr. YATES) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Workforce

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## A BILL

To amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to reform the provisions relating to child labor.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE: REFERENCE.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
5 “Young American Workers’ Bill of Rights”.

1           (b) REFERENCE.—Whenever in this Act an amend-  
2 ment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment  
3 to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference  
4 shall be considered to be made to a section or other provi-  
5 sion of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938.

6 **SEC. 2. REPORTING AND RECORDKEEPING.**

7           (a) CHILD-LABOR LAWS.—Section 12 (29 U.S.C.  
8 212) is amended by adding at the end the following new  
9 subsection:

10           “(e)(1) The Secretary and the United States Census  
11 Bureau shall compile data from respective State employ-  
12 ment security agencies in all the States (A) on the types  
13 of industries and occupations in which children under the  
14 age of 18 are employed and on the types of industries and  
15 occupations in which children who are 18 and full-time  
16 students in a high school are employed, and (B) on cases  
17 in which it was determined that minors were employed in  
18 violation of this section. The first such compilation shall  
19 be completed not later than 2 years after the date of en-  
20 actment of the Young American Workers’ Bill of Rights  
21 and each subsequent compilation shall be completed not  
22 later than 3 years thereafter.

23           “(2) If a minor in the course of employment suffers  
24 death or an injury or illness resulting in lost work time  
25 of at least 1 working day, not later than 5 days after the

1 death, injury, or illness, the employer of the minor shall  
2 provide to the State agency a written description of the  
3 death, injury, or illness.

4 “(3) The Secretary of Health and Human Services,  
5 in conjunction with the Secretary of Labor, shall issue an  
6 annual report on the status of child labor in the United  
7 States and its attendant safety and health hazards.”.

8 **SEC. 3. CERTIFICATES OF EMPLOYMENT.**

9 Section 12 (29 U.S.C. 212) is amended by adding  
10 at the end the following new subsection:

11 “(e)(1) As used in this subsection, the term ‘parents’  
12 means the biological parents of a minor or other individual  
13 standing in loco parentis to a minor and the term ‘minor’  
14 means an individual who is under the age of 18 and who  
15 has not received a high school diploma or its equivalent  
16 or who is 18 and enrolled full-time in a high school.

17 “(2) No employer shall employ a minor unless the  
18 minor possesses a valid certificate of employment issued  
19 in accordance with this subsection.

20 “(3) The Governor of a State shall designate a State  
21 agency to issue certificates of employment to minors in  
22 the State. The agency shall make available, on request,  
23 a form for the application described in paragraph (4) and  
24 shall make available, as part of the certification process,  
25 materials describing applicable Federal requirements gov-

1 erving the employment of minors and the minor’s rights  
2 under such requirements.

3 “(4) To be eligible to receive a certificate of employ-  
4 ment, a minor must submit to the appropriate State agen-  
5 cy an application that contains—

6 “(A) the name and address of the minor;

7 “(B) proof of age of the minor;

8 “(C) if the minor is under the age of 18 or is  
9 age 18 and enrolled full-time in a high school—

10 “(i) a written statement by the parents or  
11 legal guardian of the minor that the parents  
12 grant consent for employment of the minor; and

13 “(ii) a written verification from the mi-  
14 nor’s school that the minor is meeting at least  
15 the minimum school attendance requirements  
16 established by the State and that such employ-  
17 ment will not interfere with the schooling of the  
18 minor; and

19 “(D) the employer’s name, address, signature;

20 and

21 “(E) with respect to the employment—

22 “(i) a statement on the nature of the work  
23 to be performed;

24 “(ii) the daily and weekly hours, and

1                   “(iii) the times of day in which the work  
2                   is to be performed.

3                   “(5) On receipt of an application under paragraph  
4 (4), a State agency shall issue to the minor—

5                   “(A) a certificate of employment, if the require-  
6                   ments of paragraph (4) are met; or

7                   “(B) a statement of the denial of a certificate  
8                   of employment (including the reasons for the denial),  
9                   if the requirements of paragraph (4) are not met.

10                  “(6) A certificate of employment issued to a minor  
11 under this subsection shall be valid for 1 year after the  
12 date of issuance of the certificate or for the duration of  
13 the permitted employment, whichever is shorter.

14                  “(7) A certificate of employment issued to a minor  
15 under this subsection shall indicate—

16                  “(A) the name, address, and date of birth of  
17                  the minor;

18                  “(B) a minor will not be employed more than  
19                  3 hours per day or more than 15 hours per week  
20                  and shall be prohibited from working before 7 a.m.  
21                  and after 7 p.m. when school is in session if such  
22                  minor is between 14 and 16 years of age and will  
23                  not be employed more than 4 hours per school day  
24                  or more than 20 hours per week and shall be prohib-  
25                  ited from working before 6 a.m. and after 10 p.m.

1 when school is in session if such minor is 16, 17, or  
2 18 years of age and a full-time student enrolled in  
3 a high school; and

4 “(C) the name, address, and telephone number  
5 of the State agency that may be contacted for addi-  
6 tional information concerning applicable Federal re-  
7 quirements governing the employment of minors.

8 “(8) The State agency shall provide a copy of a cer-  
9 tificate of employment issued to a minor who is not older  
10 than the age of 18 to the parent of the minor who granted  
11 consent pursuant to paragraph (4) and to the local school  
12 district where the minor is enrolled.

13 “(9) If an employer employs a minor, not later than  
14 14 days after the date of the commencement of employ-  
15 ment of the minor, the employer shall provide to the State  
16 agency written notice of the name and occupation of the  
17 minor and the number of the certificate of employment  
18 issued to the minor.

19 “(10) Each employer shall post a copy of the provi-  
20 sions of this Act relating to child labor at each premise  
21 of a worksite where one or more minors is employed.

22 “(11) A State agency shall report annually to the  
23 Secretary concerning certificates of employment issued  
24 under this subsection. The agency shall include such infor-  
25 mation as the Secretary requires (including information

1 on the number of deaths and injuries of minors reported  
2 pursuant to subsection (f)).”.

3 **SEC. 4. REVISIONS OF ORDERS AND REGULATIONS.**

4 (a) ORDERS.—

5 (1) In the administration of the Fair Labor  
6 Standards Act of 1938, the Secretary of Labor shall  
7 make the following revisions in the Secretary’s child  
8 labor orders published in subpart E of part 570 of  
9 title 29, Code of Federal Regulations:

10 (A) The exemption provided in Order No.  
11 2 (29 C.F.R. 570.52) shall apply to minors who  
12 are at least 18 years of age and to driving that  
13 is secondary and incidental to the minor’s main  
14 occupation. Such exemption would be limited to  
15 20 percent of the minor’s work in any workday  
16 and may not exceed 5 percent of the minor’s  
17 work in any workweek.

18 (B) Order No. 10 (29 C.F.R. 570.61) shall  
19 apply with respect to restaurants and fast food  
20 establishments. Such order shall prohibit mi-  
21 nors who are under the age of 18 or who are  
22 18 and are enrolled full-time in a high school  
23 from cleaning any machinery irrespective of  
24 who has disassembled the machinery.

1           (2) In the administration of the Fair Labor  
2 Standards Act of 1938, the Secretary of Labor shall  
3 find and declare that poultry processing, seafood  
4 processing, paper baling, power driven meat slicing,  
5 and pesticide handling are occupations that are par-  
6 ticularly hazardous for the employment of minors for  
7 purposes of section 3(l) of the Fair Labor Standards  
8 Act of 1938.

9           (b) CHILD LABOR REGULATIONS.—Under child labor  
10 regulation No. 3 (subpart C of 29 C.F.R. 570 et seq.)—

11           (1) individuals under 16 shall be prohibited  
12 from making door-to-door sales for profit,

13           (2) individuals under 16 shall be prohibited  
14 from using fryers, baking equipment, and cooking  
15 equipment in food service establishments, and

16           (3) strike out in section 570.34(b)(5) “(except  
17 at soda fountains, lunch counters, snack bars, or  
18 cafeteria serving counters)”.

19 **SEC. 5. CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR CHILD LABOR VIOLA-**  
20 **TIONS.**

21           (a) WILLFUL VIOLATIONS THAT CAUSE INJURY OR  
22 DEATH.—Section 16 (29 U.S.C. 216) is amended by add-  
23 ing at the end the following new subsection:

24           “(f) Any person who willfully violates the provisions  
25 of section 12, relating to child labor, or any regulation



1 issued under such section, shall, on conviction be pun-  
2 ished—

3           “(1) in the case of a willful violation that  
4 causes serious bodily injury to an employee described  
5 in section 3(l) but does not cause death to the em-  
6 ployee, by a fine in accordance with section 3571 of  
7 title 18, United States Code, or by imprisonment for  
8 not more than 5 years, or by both, except that if the  
9 conviction is for a willful violation committed after  
10 a first conviction of the person, the person shall be  
11 punished by a fine in accordance with section 3571  
12 of such title 18 or by imprisonment for not more  
13 than 10 years, or by both; or

14           “(2) in the case of a willful violation that  
15 causes death to an employee described in section  
16 3(l), by a fine in accordance with section 3571 of  
17 such title 18 or by imprisonment for not more than  
18 10 years, or by both, except that if the conviction is  
19 for a willful violation committed after a first convic-  
20 tion of the person, the person shall be punished by  
21 a fine in accordance with section 3571 of such title  
22 18 or by imprisonment for not more than 20 years,  
23 or by both.”.

24           (b) NO PRIOR OFFENSE PREREQUISITE FOR CHILD  
25 LABOR VIOLATION.—The second sentence of section 16(a)

1 is amended by inserting before the period at the end the  
2 following: “, except that this sentence shall not apply to  
3 a violation of section 12”.

4 **SEC. 6. CIVIL PENALTIES FOR CHILD LABOR VIOLATIONS.**

5 Section 16(e) (29 U.S.C. 216(e)) is amended—

6 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), and  
7 (3) as subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C), respectively;

8 (2) by inserting “(1)” after the subsection des-  
9 ignation;

10 (3) by adding at the end the following new  
11 paragraphs:

12 “(2) Any person who willfully violates the provisions  
13 of section 12, relating to child labor, or any regulation  
14 issued under such section, on more than one occasion,  
15 shall, on such additional violation, be ineligible—

16 “(A) for any grant, contract, or loan provided  
17 by an agency of the United States or by appro-  
18 priated funds of the United States, for 5 years after  
19 the date of such additional violation;

20 “(B) to pay the training wage authorized by  
21 section 6 of the Fair Labor Standards Amendments  
22 of 1989 (29 U.S.C. 206 note); or

23 “(C) to employ a minor for a period of 5 years  
24 from the date of such violation.”.

1 **SEC. 7. CIVIL ACTIONS FOR CHILD LABOR VIOLATIONS.**

2 Section 16 (29 U.S.C. 216), as amended by section  
3 4, is amended by adding at the end the following:

4 “(g) Any employer who violates section 12 shall be  
5 liable for such legal or equitable relief as may be appro-  
6 priate. An action to recover such relief may be brought  
7 against any employer in any Federal or State court of  
8 competent jurisdiction by any employee subject to the pro-  
9 tections of section 12 or by the employee’s survivors. The  
10 court in such an action shall, in addition to any other  
11 judgment awarded to the plaintiff, allow a reasonable at-  
12 torney’s fee to be paid by the defendant and costs of the  
13 action. If the employee or the employee’s survivors obtain  
14 a judgment under this subsection and also seek recovery  
15 for the same violation through State worker’s compensa-  
16 tion, this subsection does not preclude a State from choos-  
17 ing to offset recovery obtained under this subsection  
18 against recovery provided through State worker’s com-  
19 pensation.”.

20 **SEC. 8. COORDINATION.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Labor shall es-  
22 tablish and encourage closer working relationships among  
23 Federal and State agencies having responsibility for en-  
24 forcing labor, safety and health, and immigration laws.

25 (b) REFERRALS.—

1           (1) The Secretary of Labor shall establish a re-  
2           ferral system under which employees engaged in the  
3           enforcement of the Fair Labor Standards Act of  
4           1938 and the Occupational Safety and Health Act  
5           of 1970 shall—

6                   (A) exchange information about suspected  
7                   violators of the Acts and monitor the results of  
8                   referrals to each other, and

9                   (B) provide basic training to each other's  
10                  staffs concerning the requirements of such Acts.

11           (2) The Secretary of Labor shall require em-  
12           ployees engaged in the enforcement of the Fair  
13           Labor Standards Act of 1938 and the Occupational  
14           Safety and Health Act of 1970 to establish a  
15           referral system with—

16                   (A) employees of the Immigration and  
17                   Naturalization Service engaged in the enforce-  
18                   ment of the Immigration and Nationality Act,  
19                   and

20                   (B) employees of Departments of Labor of  
21                   the States engaged in the enforcement of State  
22                   minimum wage and occupational safety and  
23                   health laws.

24           The Immigration and Naturalization Service and the  
25           State Departments of Labor shall each be encour-

1       aged by the Secretary of Labor to establish informa-  
2       tion exchanges and, to the extent practicable, pro-  
3       vided training to each other's staffs concerning the  
4       requirements of the Acts enforced by the respective  
5       agencies.

6       (c) **ADVICE FROM PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTORS.**—  
7       The Secretary shall seek information and advice from rep-  
8       resentative elements of the private sector and the non-  
9       Federal governmental sector with respect to the provisions  
10      of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 and correspond-  
11      ing regulations as they pertain to the employment of  
12      minors.

13      (d) **ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**—The Secretary shall es-  
14      tablish an Advisory Committee for Child Labor to provide  
15      overall policy advice on matters referred to in subsection  
16      (c). The Committee shall be composed of not less than  
17      21 individuals, and shall include representatives of govern-  
18      ment, labor, industry, education, agriculture, health pro-  
19      fessions, small business, youth, service industries, retail-  
20      ers, consumer interests, human rights, child welfare, par-  
21      ent groups, and the general public. The Committee shall  
22      meet quarterly at the call of the Secretary or upon the  
23      call of a majority of the Committee, a quorum being  
24      present. The Chairperson of the Committee shall be elect-  
25      ed by the Committee from among its members. Members

1 of the Committee shall be appointed by the President for  
2 a period of 4 years and may be reappointed for one or  
3 more additional periods. The Secretary shall make avail-  
4 able to the Committee such staff, information, personnel,  
5 and administrative services and assistance as it may rea-  
6 sonably require to carry out its activities.

7 **SEC. 9. PUBLICATION OF VIOLATORS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Labor shall pub-  
9 lish and disseminate the names and addresses of each per-  
10 son who has willfully violated the provisions of section 12  
11 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 relating to child  
12 labor or any regulation under such section and the types  
13 of violations committed by such person and shall distribute  
14 the publication regionally.

15 (b) NOTICE TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS.—The Secretary  
16 shall post and otherwise make available to affected school  
17 districts the name of each employer who violates the provi-  
18 sions of section 12 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of  
19 1938, relating to child labor, or any regulation issued  
20 under such section together with a description of the loca-  
21 tion and nature of the violation.

22 **SEC. 10. COVERAGE.**

23 The provisions of sections 12 and 16(e) of the Fair  
24 Labor Standards Act of 1938 shall apply to employers re-  
25 gardless of the annual dollar volume of sales whereby cer-

1 tain enterprises are exempted from coverage under such  
2 Act.

3 **SEC. 11. PROTECTION OF MINORS WHO ARE MIGRANT OR**  
4 **SEASONAL AGRICULTURAL WORKERS.**

5 (a) DEFINITION OF OPPRESSIVE CHILD LABOR.—  
6 The first sentence of section 3(l) (29 U.S.C. 203(l)) is  
7 amended—

- 8 (1) by striking “or” before “(2)”; and  
9 (2) by inserting before the semicolon the follow-  
10 ing: “, or (3) any employee under the age of 14  
11 years is employed by an employer as a migrant agri-  
12 cultural worker (as defined in section 3(8) of the Mi-  
13 grant and Seasonal Agricultural Protection Act (29  
14 U.S.C. 1802(8)) or seasonal agricultural worker (as  
15 defined in section 3(10) of such Act)”.

16 (b) EXEMPTIONS.—Section 13 (29 U.S.C. 213) is  
17 amended—

- 18 (1) in subsection (a)(6), by inserting before the  
19 semicolon at the end the following: “, except that  
20 this paragraph shall not apply to an employee de-  
21 scribed in section 3(l)(3)”;

22 (2) in subsection (c)—

- 23 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “Except  
24 as provided in paragraph (2) or (4)” and in-

1           serting “Except as provided in paragraph (2),  
2           (4), or (5)”; and

3           (B) by adding at the end the following new  
4           paragraph:

5           “(5) The provisions of section 12 relating to child  
6 labor shall apply to an employee described in section  
7 3(1)(3).”.

8 **SEC. 12. REGULATIONS.**

9           The Secretary of Labor shall issue such regulations  
10 as are necessary to carry out this Act and the amendments  
11 made by this Act.

12 **SEC. 13. AUTHORIZATION.**

13           There is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-  
14 retary of Labor such sums as may be necessary for the  
15 additional costs resulting from the amendments made by  
16 sections 2 and 5.

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