

The Historical Background of the Minimum Wage Law

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The Comment discusses the Minimum Wage Law (R.A. No. 602) as a means to regulate wages through the coercive power of the State. The Commentary begins by stating the purpose of the Law in society, and further limits its scope into one which describes briefly the steps taken by means of a Minimum Wage Legislation, to secure the attainment of the third requisite in some of the leading countries in the world, namely, the maximization of income security for all sections of the community. It presents a history of the Law, the origin of which commenced in Australia, as early as 1894. The Commentary discusses the different origins and processes which the Minimum Wage Law or laws similar to it among various regions in the world. It presents the histories of such Law in New Zealand, in Australia, in the United States of America, and finally, in the Philippines. The Authors, dividing it into the history of legislation, the time of early legislation, the effect of court opinions, the effect of the Depression, and the federal legislation, further look into the discussion on the Law in the United States.