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Funding is continued for state enforcement of minimum wage law

Ohio's State Controlling Board approved continued funding for enforcement of Ohio's wage and hour laws at its meeting February 22, ending the threat that state enforcement of the Ohio minimum wage would end July 1. The General Assembly had not provided funds in the biennial budget for continued operation of the Bureau of Labor and Worker Safety in Fiscal Year 2011, except for a modest \$150,000 to enforce the prevailing wage law.

LAWS, a unit of the Department of Commerce, is responsible for enforcing the state's minimum wage law, along with the prevailing wage and minor wage laws. The Commerce Department now will use carryover funds of \$1.49 million it had available to continue overall funding at the FY2010 level. Even with the February action, LAWS funding remains well below previous levels, crimping enforcement efforts. However, Policy Matters Ohio applauds the action by the Commerce Department and the controlling board, allowing the continuation of this vital work.

