New federal overtime law in effect as of January 1

By Dee Ann Campbell Sun-Advocate Publisher

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The new federal overtime law went into effect on January 1, and businesses are now adjusting to the changes.

Under the new law, more manage-

ceive overtime compensation for hours worked. Estimates show that about 1.2 million workers are affected by the change.

The new law increases the salary threshold for salaried personnel to be exempt from time-and-a-half overtime pay to \$35,568. Until now, employers could ex-

ment-level employees are eligible to re- empt salaried employees who earned \$23,660 or more and not pay them overtime for hours worked beyond 40 per week.

The new law will increase costs for employers in some small businesses and opponents say that the change could be difficult for some businesses to absorb. The change will also mean that employers will have to start tracking time for all employees who fit the threshold and monitor hours worked for those employees in order to remain in compliance.

A previous attempt to raise the threshold to \$47,476 during the Obama Administration was blocked, stopping a more than

\$23,000 increase. With the new rule, businesses have the following options:

• pay overtime to salaried employees earning up to \$35,568 or more;

• raise an employee's salary so that the worker falls under the new threshold;

• pay employees through hourly wages and overtime pay by tracking time worked.

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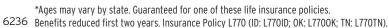
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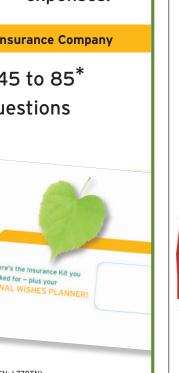
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