

■ **WAGE PAYMENT LAWS**

TERMS: All corporations which do business in the state and employ laborers must pay their workers' wages twice a month. Wages may be paid only in lawful U.S. money, by check payable in lawful money, or by direct deposit into the worker's account.

Whenever an employer fires or lays off a worker, with or without cause, the unpaid balance of the worker's earnings is due immediately. If the worker has not received final pay within 7 days, as a penalty for non-payment the worker is entitled to continued pay at the same rate from the date of termination until paid, generally up to a maximum penalty of 60 days' wages.

It is illegal for an employer to force or attempt to force a worker to purchase goods or supplies as payment of wages.

ENFORCEMENT: *Labor Standards Division, Arkansas Department of Labor, Little Rock, Arkansas 72205 (501-682-4500)*. The Department is authorized to investigate any wage claim amounting to \$2,000 or less. If a worker's claim is found valid and the worker lacks financial resources to recover wages from an employer who refuses to accept the Department's findings, the agency is authorized to take legal action against the employer on the worker's behalf.