

A BILL

FOR AN ACT TO PROTECT EMPLOYEES AND LABORERS IN THEIR CLAIMS FOR WAGES.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

SECTION 1. That, hereafter, when the property of any company, corporation, firm or person shall be seized upon by any process of any court of this state; or when their business shall be suspended by the action of creditors, or be put into the hands of a receiver or trustee, then and in all such cases, the debts owing to laborers or servants, which have accrued by reason of their labor or employment to an amount not exceeding fifty dollars to each employe, for work or labor performed within six months next preceding the seizure or transfer of such property shall be considered and treated as preferred debts and such laborers or employes shall be preferred creditors, and shall be first paid in full; and if there be not sufficient to pay them in full, then the same shall be paid them *pro rata*, after paying costs. Any such laborer or servant desiring to enforce his or her claim for wages under this act, shall present a statement under oath showing the amount due after allowing all just credits and set-offs, the kind of work for which such wages are due, and when performed, to the officer, person or court charged with such property, within ten days after the seizure thereof on any execution or writ of attachment, or within thirty days after the same may have been placed in the hands of any receiver or trustee; and thereupon it shall be the duty of the person or court receiving such statement to pay the amount of such claim or claims to the person or persons entitled thereto (after first paying the costs occasioned by the seizure of such property) out of the proceeds of the sale of the property seized: *Provided*, that any person interested may contest any such claim or claims or any part thereof by filing exceptions thereto, supported by affidavit, with the officer having the custody of such property, and thereupon the claimant shall be required to reduce his claim to judgment before some court having jurisdiction thereof, before any part thereof shall be paid.

SEC. 2. This act shall not be construed to impair contracts existing at the time of its going into effect.