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Labor Department Postpones Guest Workers' Wage Increase

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The Labor Department late Thursday announced a 60-day delay in wage increases for foreign guest workers under the federal H-2B program. Employers in the program have argued that the steep and sudden increases, scheduled to take effect Sept. 30, could put many of them out of business, costing American jobs. Louisiana employers sued the department, and Senators Mary L. Landrieu of Louisiana and Barbara A. Mikulski of Maryland, both Democrats, said they would try to have the wage increases canceled.