

HOUSE BILL NO. 1240

Introduced by

Representatives Mitskog, Becker, Boschee, Roers Jones, D. Ruby

Senators Burckhard, Oban, J. Roers

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 65-01 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to workforce safety and insurance pilot program; to amend and reenact
3 section 65-05.1-06.3 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to rehabilitation services pilot
4 programs; and to provide for a report to legislative management.

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

6 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 65-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
7 and enacted as follows:

8 **Pilot programs - Report to legislative management.**

9 Annually the organization shall report to the legislative management on the status of any
10 current pilot programs and pilot programs completed within the previous twelve months. The
11 report must include ~~an overview and status update,~~ a summary of findings, and
12 recommendations on each pilot program, together with any legislation required to implement the
13 recommendations.

14 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 65-05.1-06.3 of the North Dakota Century Code is
15 amended and reenacted as follows:

16 **65-05.1-06.3. Rehabilitation services pilot programs - Reports.**

17 The organization may implement a system of pilot programs to allow the organization to
18 assess alternative methods of providing rehabilitation services. A pilot program may address
19 one or more of the organization's comprehensive rehabilitation services, including vocational,
20 medical, psychological, economic, and social rehabilitation services. The goal of a pilot program
21 must be to improve the outcome of the rehabilitation services offered by the organization to
22 assist the injured employee in making adjustments necessitated from the employee's injury and
23 to improve the effectiveness of vocational rehabilitation services in returning an employee to
24 substantial gainful employment. Notwithstanding laws to the contrary, a pilot program may

1 address a broad range of approaches, including collaborative efforts between the organization
2 and the injured employee through which there are variances from the rehabilitation services
3 hierarchy; return-to-work trial periods during which cash benefits are suspended; intensive job
4 search assistance; recognition of and focused services for injured employees who are at risk;
5 and coordination of services of public and private entities. If a pilot program utilizes coordination
6 of services of other state agencies, such as job service North Dakota, department of human
7 services, North Dakota university system, or department of public instruction, the organization
8 shall consult with the state agency in establishing the relevant portions of the pilot program and
9 the state agency shall cooperate with the organization in implementing the pilot program. The
10 organization shall include in its biennial report to the workers' compensation review committee
11 ~~under section 54-35-22~~ provide status reports on current pilot programs in accordance with
12 section 1 of this Act.