

**Sixty-sixth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Thursday, January 3, 2019**

HOUSE BILL NO. 1240
(Representatives Mitskog, Becker, Boschee, Roers Jones, D. Ruby)
(Senators Burckhard, Oban, J. Roers)

AN ACT to create and enact a new section to chapter 65-01 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to workforce safety and insurance pilot program; to amend and reenact section 65-05.1-06.3 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to rehabilitation services pilot programs; and to provide for a report to the legislative management.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

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

Pilot programs - Report to legislative management.

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

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

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

The organization may implement a system of pilot programs to allow the organization to assess alternative methods of providing rehabilitation services. A pilot program may address one or more of the organization's comprehensive rehabilitation services, including vocational, medical, psychological, economic, and social rehabilitation services. The goal of a pilot program must be to improve the outcome of the rehabilitation services offered by the organization to assist the injured employee in making adjustments necessitated from the employee's injury and to improve the effectiveness of vocational rehabilitation services in returning an employee to substantial gainful employment. Notwithstanding laws to the contrary, a pilot program may address a broad range of approaches, including collaborative efforts between the organization and the injured employee through which there are variances from the rehabilitation services hierarchy; return-to-work trial periods during which cash benefits are suspended; intensive job search assistance; recognition of and focused services for injured employees who are at risk; and coordination of services of public and private entities. If a pilot program utilizes coordination of services of other state agencies, such as job service North Dakota, department of human services, North Dakota university system, or department of public instruction, the organization shall consult with the state agency in establishing the relevant portions of the pilot program and the state agency shall cooperate with the organization in implementing the pilot program. The organization shall include in its biennial report to the workers' compensation review committee under section ~~54-35-22~~ provide status reports on current pilot programs in accordance with section 1 of this Act.

Speaker of the House

President of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

Secretary of the Senate

This certifies that the within bill originated in the House of Representatives of the Sixty-sixth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as House Bill No. 1240.

House Vote: Yeas 93 Nays 0 Absent 1

Senate Vote: Yeas 44 Nays 0 Absent 3

Chief Clerk of the House

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2019.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2019.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2019,

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State