

Fifty-seventh
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

SENATE BILL NO. 2121

Introduced by

Industry, Business and Labor Committee

(At the request of the Workers Compensation Bureau)

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 65-01-05 and 65-05-33 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to workers' compensation fraud; to provide a penalty; and to provide an
3 effective date.

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

5 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 65-01-05 of the 1999 Supplement to the North
6 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

7 **65-01-05. Employment of those unprotected by insurance unlawful - Effect of**
8 **failure to secure compensation - Penalty - Injunction.** It is unlawful for ~~any~~ an employer to
9 employ anyone, or to receive the fruits of the labor of ~~any~~ a person, in a hazardous employment
10 as defined in this title, without first ~~making application~~ applying for workers' compensation
11 insurance coverage for the protection of ~~such~~ the employees by notice to the bureau of the
12 intended employment, the nature thereof, and the estimated payroll expenditure for the coming
13 twelve-month period. ~~Failure~~ Willful failure to secure workers' compensation coverage for
14 employees by application for workers' compensation insurance constitutes a class A
15 misdemeanor. If the premium due exceeds five hundred dollars, the penalty for willful failure to
16 secure coverage is a class C felony. ~~Where~~ If the employer is a corporation or a limited liability
17 company, the president, secretary, treasurer, or person with primary responsibility is liable for
18 the failure to secure workers' compensation coverage under this section. In addition to the
19 penalties prescribed by this section the bureau may, by injunction proceedings as provided for
20 in this title, enjoin ~~any~~ an employer from unlawfully employing uninsured workers.

21 **SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 65-05-33 of the 1999 Supplement to the North
22 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

23 **65-05-33. Filing false claim or false statement - Penalty.**

- 1 1. A person is guilty of a class A misdemeanor if that person is claiming benefits or
2 payment for services under this title, or is an employer of a person claiming
3 benefits, and that person:
 - 4 a. Willfully files a false claim or makes a false statement in an attempt to secure
5 payment of benefits or payment for services.
 - 6 b. Willfully misrepresents that person's physical condition, including deceptive
7 conduct which misrepresents that person's physical ability.
 - 8 c. Has a claim for disability benefits that has been accepted by the bureau and
9 willfully fails to notify the bureau of:
 - 10 (1) Work or other activities as required under subsection 3 of section
11 65-05-08;
 - 12 (2) The receipt of income from work; or
 - 13 (3) An increase in income from work.
- 14 2. If any of the acts in subsection 1 are committed to obtain, or pursuant to a scheme
15 to obtain, more than five hundred dollars in benefits or payment for services, the
16 offense is a class C felony.
- 17 3. In addition to any other penalties provided by law, the person claiming benefits or
18 payment for services in violation of this section shall reimburse the bureau for any
19 benefits paid based upon the false claim or false statement and, if applicable,
20 under section 65-05-29 and shall forfeit any additional benefits relative to that
21 injury.
- 22 4. For purposes of this section, "statement" includes any testimony, claim form,
23 notice, proof of injury, proof of return to work status, bill for services, diagnosis,
24 prescription, hospital or doctor records, x-ray, test results, nonverbal act intended
25 to represent an injured worker's physical condition, or other evidence of loss,
26 injury, or expense.

27 **SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Act is effective August 1, 2001, for all claims,
28 regardless of the date of injury.