

HOUSE BILL NO. 1287

Introduced by

Representatives Amerman, S. Kelsh

Senator Horne

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 65-05.1 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to pilot programs for workers' compensation rehabilitation services.

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

4 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 65-05.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is
5 created and enacted as follows:

6 **Rehabilitation services - Pilot programs - Reports.**

- 7 1. The organization shall implement an ongoing system of pilot programs to allow the
8 organization to assess alternative methods of providing rehabilitation services.
9 The pilot programs may address one or more of the organization's comprehensive
10 rehabilitation services, including vocational, medical, psychological, economic, and
11 social rehabilitation services. The purpose of each pilot program must be to
12 improve the outcome of the services offered by the organization to the injured
13 employee and the injured employee's family in the adjustments required by the
14 employee's injury and to improve the effectiveness of vocational rehabilitation in
15 returning a disabled employee to substantial gainful employment. Pilot programs
16 may address a broad range of approaches, including return-to-work trial periods
17 during which cash benefits are suspended; intensive job search assistance;
18 recognition of and focused services for injured employees who are at risk; and
19 coordination of services of other state agencies, such as job service North Dakota.
20 2. Each pilot program must include a cost-benefit analysis; a strengths, weaknesses,
21 and opportunities analysis; and employer and employee satisfaction information.
22 The organization shall include in its annual reports to the legislative council's
23 legislative audit and fiscal review committee under section 65-02-03.3:
24 a. Preliminary reports on future pilot programs;

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- 1 b. Status reports on current pilot programs; and
- 2 c. Final reports on completed pilot programs, including recommendations.