

**Sixtieth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota
In Regular Session Commencing Wednesday, January 3, 2007**

SENATE BILL NO. 2123
(Industry, Business and Labor Committee)
(At the request of Workforce Safety and Insurance)

AN ACT to amend and reenact sections 65-04-04, 65-04-15, 65-04-17, 65-04-19.1, 65-05-28.1, and 65-06.2-04 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to an employer's certificate of premium payment, release of confidential information, the maximum experience rating of employers, premium discounts in risk management programs, preferred providers, and roughrider industries; and to provide for application.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT. Section 65-04-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

65-04-04. Employers obligated to pay premiums - Premium and certificates to be mailed. Each employer subject to this title shall pay into the fund annually the amount of premiums determined and fixed by the organization for the employment or occupation of the employer. The amount must be determined by the classifications, rules, and rates made and published by the organization and must be based on a proportion of the annual expenditure of money by the employer for the service of persons subject to the provisions of this title. The organization shall mail to the employer a certificate specifying that the payment has been made. The certificate, attested by the seal of the organization, is prima facie evidence of the payment of the premium. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 65-04-15, the certificate may reflect the employer has paid the minimum premium and has ~~estimated~~ no ~~wages~~ employees for the period indicated on the certificate. If an employer defaults on premium payments after a certificate has been issued, the organization may revoke that employer's certificate. The organization shall provide that premiums to be paid by school districts, townships, and all public corporations or agencies, except municipal corporations, fall due at the end of the fiscal year of that entity, and that premiums to be paid by all municipal corporations fall due at the end of the calendar year, and may make provisions so that premiums of other employers fall due on different or specified dates. For the purpose of effectuating different or specified due dates the organization may carry new or current risks for a period of less than one year and not to exceed eighteen months, either by request of the employer or action of the organization. An employer subject to this chapter shall display in a conspicuous manner at the workplace and in a sufficient number of places to reasonably inform employees of the fact, a certificate of premium payment showing compliance with this chapter and the toll-free telephone number used to report unsafe working conditions and actual or suspected workforce safety and insurance fraud. Any employer subject to this chapter is liable to pay a civil penalty of two hundred fifty dollars for failure to display the notice of compliance and the toll-free telephone number as required by this section.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENT. Section 65-04-15 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

65-04-15. Information in employer's files confidential - Exceptions - Penalty if employee of organization divulges information. The information contained in an employer's file is not subject to section 44-04-18 and section 6 of article XI of the Constitution of North Dakota; is for the exclusive use and information of the organization or its agents in the discharge of the organization's official duties; and is not open to the public nor usable in any court in any court action or proceeding unless the organization is a party to that court action or proceeding. The information contained in the file, however, may be tabulated and published by the organization in statistical form for the use and information of the state departments and of the public. Upon request, the organization shall disclose the rate classification of an employer to the requester; however, the organization may not disclose any

information that would reveal the amount of payroll upon which that employer's premium is being paid or the amount of premium the employer is paying. The organization may disclose whether an employer's file is active, canceled, closed, pending, ~~or delinquent, or uninsured~~. The information in the employer's file may not be released in aggregate form, except to those persons contracting with the organization for exchange of information pertaining to the administration of this title ~~or, except upon written authorization by the employer for a specified purpose, or at the discretion of the organization with regard to delinquent and uninsured employers~~. Disclosure by a public servant of information contained in an employer's report, except as otherwise allowed by law, is a violation of section 12.1-13-01. Anyone who is convicted under section 12.1-13-01 is disqualified from holding any office or employment with the organization.

The organization may, upon request of the state tax commissioner or the secretary of state, furnish to them a list of employers showing only the names, addresses, and organization file identification numbers of such employers as those files relate to this chapter; provided, that any such list so furnished must be used by the tax commissioner or the secretary of state only for the purpose of administering their duties. The organization may provide any state or federal agency information obtained pursuant to the administration of this title. Any information so provided must be used only for the purpose of administering the duties of that state or federal agency. Whenever the organization obtains information on activities of a contractor doing business in this state of which officials of the secretary of state, job service North Dakota, or tax commissioner may be unaware and that may be relevant to the duties of those officials, the organization shall provide any relevant information to those officials for the purpose of administering their duties. The organization may provide any state agency or a private entity with a list of names and addresses of employers for the purpose of jointly publishing or distributing publications or other information pursuant to section 54-06-04.3. Any information so provided may only be used for the purpose of jointly publishing or distributing publications or other information as provided in section 54-06-04.3.

SECTION 3. AMENDMENT. Section 65-04-17 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

65-04-17. Experience rating of employers. The organization may establish a system for the experience rating of risks of employers contributing to the fund, and such system shall provide for the credit rating and the penalty rating of individual risks within such limitations as the organization may establish from time to time.

In calculating the experience rating, the organization shall determine the ~~maximum and minimum rates~~ rate for each employment classification by:

1. ~~Multiplying the required average premium rate by one and seventy five hundredths to get the maximum rate assigned to an employer with a negative experience rating; and~~
2. ~~Multiplying~~ multiplying the required average premium rate by twenty-five hundredths to get the minimum rate assigned to an employer with a positive experience rating.

The organization may not amend its experience rating system by emergency rulemaking.

SECTION 4. AMENDMENT. Section 65-04-19.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

65-04-19.1. Premium discount for implementation of ~~preapproved~~ risk management program programs. Any employer who ~~implements or maintains~~ achieves the benchmarks outlined by the organization's risk management programs ~~approved by the organization is entitled to eligible for~~ a discount in the annual premium ~~the employer must pay to the organization for the year following the year in which the risk management programs program's benchmarks are implemented or maintained.~~ The organization may not apply the discount to an employer's premium unless the organization has ~~approved the programs implemented by the employer~~ achieved.

SECTION 5. AMENDMENT. Section 65-05-28.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

65-05-28.1. Employer to select preferred provider. Notwithstanding section 65-05-28, ~~an~~ any employer subject to this title ~~who maintains a risk management program approved by the organization~~ may select a preferred provider to render medical treatment to employees who sustain compensable injuries. "Preferred provider" means a designated provider or group of providers of medical services, including consultations or referral by the provider or providers.

SECTION 6. AMENDMENT. Section 65-06.2-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

65-06.2-04. Workers' compensation coverage for inmates engaged in work programs through roughrider industries. The director of the department of corrections and rehabilitation may elect to provide and request from the organization a program of modified workers' compensation coverage established under this chapter and according to administrative rules and fee schedules of this chapter. ~~Roughrider industries shall qualify for the organization's risk management program before the organization may provide the modified workers' compensation coverage.~~ The modified workers' compensation coverage ~~would be~~ is for inmates incarcerated at the penitentiary and engaged in work in a prison industries work program through roughrider industries, whether the program is operated by roughrider industries or by contract with another entity or private employer. An inmate who sustains a compensable injury arising out of and in the course of work in a prison industries work program through roughrider industries may only receive workforce safety and insurance benefits under the modified workers' compensation coverage established for that purpose.

SECTION 7. APPLICATION. Section 3 of this Act applies to all employer accounts incepting or renewing after July 1, 2008.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

Secretary of the Senate

Chief Clerk of the House

This certifies that the within bill originated in the Senate of the Sixtieth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as Senate Bill No. 2123.

Senate Vote: Yeas 42 Nays 0 Absent 5

House Vote: Yeas 92 Nays 1 Absent 1

Secretary of the Senate

Received by the Governor at _____ M. on _____, 2007.

Approved at _____ M. on _____, 2007.

Governor

Filed in this office this _____ day of _____, 2007,
at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Secretary of State