

By: Giddings

H.B. No. 886

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to an optional preauthorization plan for the workers'  
3 compensation return-to-work pilot program for small employers.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. Section 413.022, Labor Code, is amended by  
6 adding Subsection (c-1) to read as follows:

7 (c-1) The commissioner by rule shall establish an optional  
8 preauthorization plan for eligible employers who participate in the  
9 pilot program. To participate in the preauthorization plan, an  
10 employer must submit a proposal to the division, in the manner  
11 prescribed by the division, that describes the workplace  
12 modifications and other changes that the employer proposes to make  
13 to accommodate an injured employee's return to work. If the  
14 division approves the employer's proposal, the division shall  
15 guarantee reimbursement of the expenses incurred by the employer in  
16 implementing the modifications and changes from the account unless  
17 the division determines that the modifications and changes differ  
18 materially from the employer's proposal. Reimbursement under this  
19 subsection is subject to the limit imposed under Subsection (c).

20 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
21 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
22 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
23 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
24 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.