

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.