

1-1 By: Giddings (Senate Sponsor - Watson) H.B. No. 886  
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House March 26, 2007;  
1-3 April 3, 2007, read first time and referred to Committee on State  
1-4 Affairs; April 25, 2007, reported favorably by the following vote:  
1-5 Yeas 9, Nays 0; April 25, 2007, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to an optional preauthorization plan for the workers'  
1-9 compensation return-to-work pilot program for small employers.

1-10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-11 SECTION 1. Section 413.022, Labor Code, is amended by  
1-12 adding Subsection (c-1) to read as follows:

1-13 (c-1) The commissioner by rule shall establish an optional  
1-14 preauthorization plan for eligible employers who participate in the  
1-15 pilot program. To participate in the preauthorization plan, an  
1-16 employer must submit a proposal to the division, in the manner  
1-17 prescribed by the division, that describes the workplace  
1-18 modifications and other changes that the employer proposes to make  
1-19 to accommodate an injured employee's return to work. If the  
1-20 division approves the employer's proposal, the division shall  
1-21 guarantee reimbursement of the expenses incurred by the employer in  
1-22 implementing the modifications and changes from the account unless  
1-23 the division determines that the modifications and changes differ  
1-24 materially from the employer's proposal. Reimbursement under this  
1-25 subsection is subject to the limit imposed under Subsection (c).

1-26 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
1-27 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
1-28 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
1-29 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
1-30 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

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