

**HB 2537 - DIGEST**

(SUBSTITUTED FOR - SEE 1ST SUB)

Provides that, by January 1, 2007, the department shall develop and begin a pilot program to allow employers to assist workers in completing an application for benefits. This pilot program does not replace the current method for reporting through the physician. The pilot program shall include the voluntary participation of employers that represent a cross-section of industries, geographic areas, union and nonunion workers, and other criteria established by the department with input of business and labor leaders. During the pilot period, the department shall continue to expand the participation of employers and shall consider steps to address the unique needs and issues of small employers. The pilot program expires July 1, 2009.