

**SB 6262-S - DIGEST**

(AS OF SENATE 2ND READING 2/08/06)

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 as provided in RCW 51.28.020. The department shall develop requirements or rules for employers who participate in the pilot program, including provisions to ensure prompt reporting of the claim and communicating a worker's rights and responsibilities under the pilot program.

Provides that the pilot program shall include the voluntary participation of employers that represent a cross-section of industries, geographic areas, union and nonunion workers, large and small businesses, and other criteria established by the department with input of business and labor leaders. The department will, to the greatest extent possible, attempt to include in the pilot all employers who volunteer.

Provides that, 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.