STATE OF NEW YORK

1022

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

(Prefiled)

January 6, 2021

Introduced by Sen. RAMOS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Labor

AN ACT to amend the workers' compensation law, in relation to providing language access services

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The workers' compensation law is amended by adding a new section 17-a to read as follows:

§ 17-a. Limited English proficiency. 1. The board shall provide translation of all documents and forms used by or issued to injured employees. The translation shall be in the six most common non-English languages spoken by individuals with limited-English proficiency in the state of New York.

2. The board shall provide interpretation services to injured employees with respect to its provision of services, information and/or benefits.

3. The board shall publish a language access plan that reflects:

(a) the means by which it provides language assistance services;

(b) the titles of all available translated documents and the languages into which they have been translated;

(c) the number of public contact positions at the board and the number of bilingual employees in public contact positions, including the languages they speak;

(d) a training plan for board employees which includes, at minimum, annual training on its language access policies and how to provide language assistance services;

(e) a plan for annual internal monitoring of the board's language access plan;

(f) a plan of how the board intends to notify injured employees of offered language assistant services; and

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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(g) the appointment of a language access coordinator at the board, who shall be publicly identified.

4. The language access coordinator for the board shall monitor the board's compliance with this section by annually collecting data on the provision of language assistance services, the availability of translated materials, whether signage is properly posted, and any other relevant measures.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.