STATE OF NEW YORK

6096

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

March 29, 2023

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. Subdivisions 1 and 3 of section 17-a of the workers' compensation law, subdivision 1 as amended by chapter 131 of the laws of 2022 and subdivision 3 as added by chapter 622 of the laws of 2021, are amended to read as follows:

1. [~~The~~] **In accordance with section two hundred two-a of the executive law, the** board shall provide translation of (a) all documents and forms published by the board that injured employees complete; [~~and~~] (b) all board documents that provide general information to injured employees on the process of applying for workers' compensation benefits**; and (c) all other vital documents as defined by subdivision five of section two hundred two-a of the executive law relevant to services offered by the agency**. [~~The translation shall be in the ten most common non-English languages spoken by individuals with limited English proficiency in the state of New York.~~]

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

(a) [~~the means by which it provides language assistance services~~] **develop a language access plan pursuant to subdivision three of section two hundred two-a of the executive law and submit such plan to the office of general services**;

(b) [~~the titles of all available translated documents and the languages into which they have been translated~~] **publish the board's language access plan on the board's website**; **and**

(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;~~]

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

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~~(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~~

~~(g) the appointment of a language access coordinator at the board, who shall be publicly identified~~] designate a language access coordinator who will work with the office of general services to ensure compliance with the requirements of this section and section two hundred two-a of the executive law.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.