

February 2, 2018

Weekly Legislative Wrap-Up

State of the States



During the State of the State address on Wednesday, Governor Rauner [called](#) on legislators to pass

workers' compensation reforms. The Governor did not specify any reforms he would like to see during the address but has been pushing for reforms since 2015 when he announced his Turnaround Agenda to improve the state's economic standing. In the past, the Governor has supported reducing indemnity payments and restricting physician dispensing of opioids.



A bill calling for the expanded reporting authority of Virginia's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program was voted

out of the House on Wednesday. [HB 313](#) authorizes the Director of the Department of Health Professions to annually review data from the PDMP to identify prescribers who fall within the top 10% in the state for prescribing controlled substances and notify the them of their standing. The bill is now before the Senate for consideration.



The House Labor and Public Employment Committee voted unanimously to pass [HB](#)

[1631](#). The bill limits physician dispensing to the first 30 days following an injury and reduces the reimbursement rate for all prescription medications from 140% of AWP to 101% of AWP. The bill awaits approval by the House Finance Committee before it can be considered by the full House.



A new bill, [HB 1992](#), was introduced in the Tennessee House this week. The bill would require

all prescribers to use electronic prescribing for all Schedule II controlled substances beginning July 1, 2020.





State of the States



On Thursday, the Indiana Senate Committee on Pensions and Labor passed [SB 369](#) which calls for the adoption of the

ODG Workers' Compensation Drug Formulary by July 1, 2018.



The Florida House Oversight, Transparency and Administration Subcommittee [voted 12-0](#) to

pass an amended version of a bill that would expand workers' comp coverage for first responders with PTSD. HB 227 would allow a first responder to make a workers' comp claim for a mental injury that does not have an accompanying physical injury, but the mental

injury diagnosis must come within two years of witnessing the triggering traumatic event. The bill must still be considered by two committees before the full House can vote on it.



Last week, HB 1451 was [introduced](#) in the New Hampshire House. The bill would penalize employers and

insurers who "willfully and without good cause fail to make a timely [workers comp benefits] payment" by doubling the claims payout to the injured worker. Under current law, late payments are subjected to a \$2,500 fine, but the bill sponsor thinks that money should go to the people impacted by the late payment.



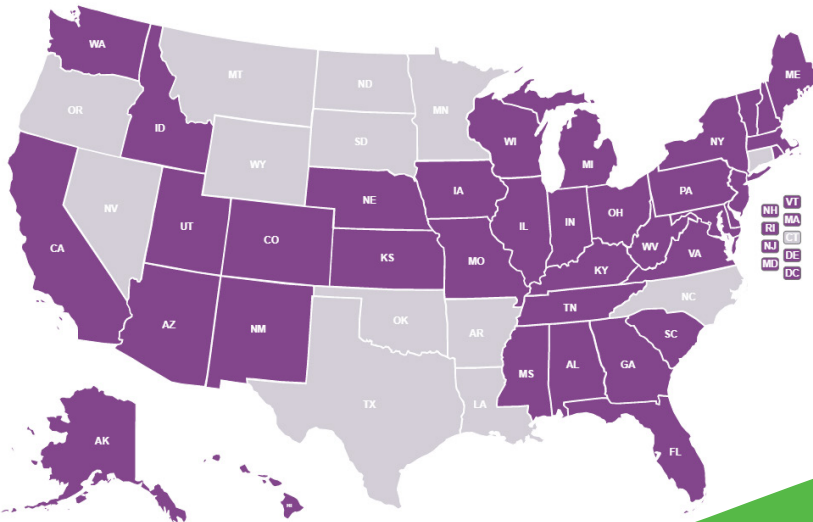
Where in the U.S.A. is Danielle?

Danielle will be in the home office next week.

States in Session

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■ In Session ■ Out of Session ■ In Special Session



Questions, Concerns, Suggestions? Let Us Know.

Danielle Jaffee, Esq.
 Manager of Government Affairs
djaffee@iwpharmacy.com
www.iwpharmacy.com/about-iwpgovernment-affairs
 978.770.8047



PO Box 338 Methuen, MA 01844

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