

March 23, 2018

## Weekly Legislative Wrap-Up

### State of the States



Utah Governor Gary Herbert, has signed several worker friendly workers' comp bills into law this

week. Among the bills is [SB 92](#) which allows claimant attorneys to collect legal fees for representing workers in medical disputes and [HB 288](#) which imposes new fines on employers who retaliate against workers for filing workers' comp claims.



A new bill, [HF 4010](#), would require prescribers in Minnesota to use electronic prescribing for

80% of their prescriptions by July 1, 2020. Prescribers who are not compliant will be subjected to a corrective action plan by the Commissioner of Health.



The Tennessee House is considering an amendment to [HB 1993](#) that would require the

use of electronic prescribing for Schedule II controlled substances beginning on January 1, 2020. The original bill only called on the Commissioner of the Department of Health to study required use of electronic prescribing and report to the legislature in 2019 with recommendations.



On Wednesday, Walgreens [agreed](#) to pay \$5.5 million to the state of Massachusetts for allegations that it

overcharged for prescriptions under the state's workers' comp system. Walgreens also agreed to implement safeguards for future transactions to prevent overcharging for workers' comp prescriptions.



On Monday, President Trump [outlined](#) his plan to reduce opioid abuse during a speech in New Hampshire. Among his calls for action is the adoption of a national prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP).

# State of the States



The North Carolina Industrial Commission has approved new limits on opioid

prescriptions for the treatment of pain in the state's workers' comp system beginning May 1, 2018. Among the new rules is an initial-fill limit on all opioids for acute pain to a 5-day supply and 50 MED. Prescribers may exceed 50 MED for subsequent fills, but are capped at 90 MED. Additionally, under the rules, if the use of opioid therapy continues beyond 30 days, prescribers must subject the injured worker to a urine drug test and evaluate them for opioid addiction risks.



Late last week, HB 515 was introduced in the Alabama House. The bill states that when an employer has a

contract with a pharmacy or PBM for prescription reimbursement at a rate lower than the state's fee schedule, the employer's liability is limited to that contracted rate for all prescription benefits. This means, even if a pharmacy does not have an agreement with the employer, their reimbursement for a prescription is set by the contracted rate, not the fee schedule. The bill is currently with the House Judiciary Committee.

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

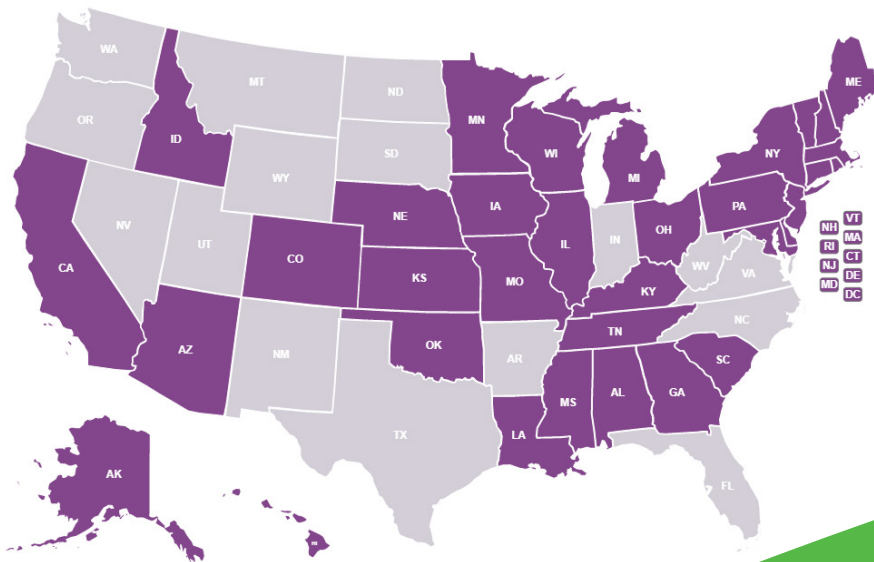
Danielle will be attending legislative meetings in Massachusetts on Tuesday and in the home office the rest of the week.



## States in Session

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■ In Session ■ Out of Session ■ In Special Session



## Questions, Concerns, Suggestions? Let Us Know.

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