

May 25, 2018

## Weekly Legislative Wrap-Up

### State of the States



A new Workers' Comp Research Institute (WCRI) study [showed](#) an increase in new pharmacies established to

handle workers' comp claims in the weeks following the passage of HB 1846, a bill limiting reimbursement for physician dispensed medications, in 2014. Although the bill did result in a steep decline in physician dispensing, the study found a significant increase in pricey compound medications and new, expensive strengths of medications. The increase in these more expensive medications originated mostly in these new pharmacies, who accounted for 16% of all workers' comp prescriptions but 49% of prescription payments.



The New Hampshire legislature passed [SB 541](#), a workers' comp cancer presumption

bill for state firefighters, on Wednesday. The bill, awaiting Governor Sununu's signature, would create a presumption of cancer coverage under the state's workers' comp statute for full-time firefighters who have worked for at least 10 years and have lived a tobacco-free life. The presumption extends for 20 years after the firefighter retires, but the bill has no funding mechanism, leaving cities and towns unsure of how they will cover the costs.



This week, the Workers' Comp Research Institute (WCRI) [released](#) their annual benchmark

study for Illinois. The study found that workers' comp claim costs continue to increase 1-3% a year and that the average cost of a claim in Illinois is higher than the other seventeen states examined. The increased costs have been a growing concern of the Governor, who has vowed for several years to reform the workers' comp system. However, he has been unsuccessful in passing significant legislation and is up for a tough reelection in November.





# State of the States



[HB 5241](#) is on its way to Governor Malloy's desk for his signature. The bill requires the Commissioner

of Public Health to examine pharmacist and practitioners use of the state's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program and report to the legislature by January 1, 2019. This is an effort to ensure 100% compliance of the PDMP requirements for practitioners and pharmacists.



On Tuesday, Governor Bill Haslam, signed [SB 2025](#) into law. The bill allows a patient to request

a partial fill of their controlled substance prescription. The bill, effective January 1, 2019, outlines the requirements on partial fills, including that the remainder of the prescription must be filled at the same pharmacy and the pharmacy is required to contact the doctor to inform them of the partial fill.



Another legislative session is over in Missouri without a prescription drug monitoring bill being passed. In 2018, the Missouri House had two PDMP bills before them, [HB 1619](#) and [HB 1740](#), but when they adjourned for the year last week, neither bill had even been granted a hearing. Missouri is the only state in the country without a PDMP.

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

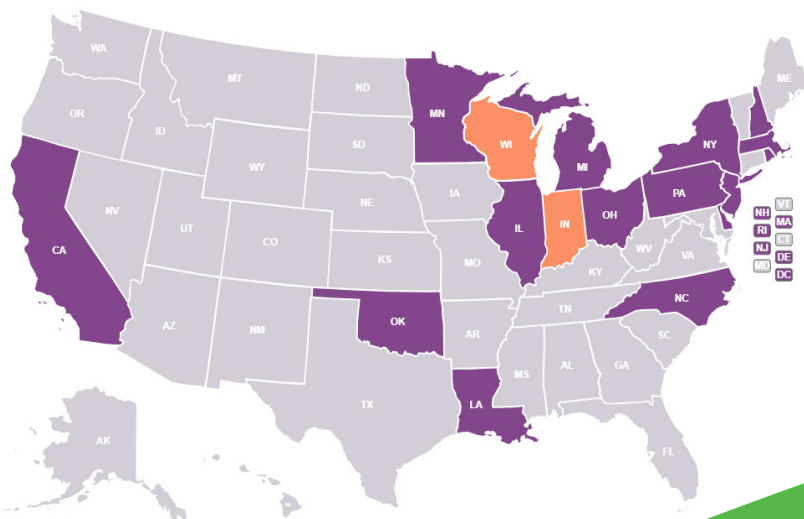
Danielle will be in the home office next week.



## States in Session

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■ In Session ■ Out of Session ■ In Special Session



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

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