

September 15, 2017

Weekly Legislative Wrap-Up

State of the States



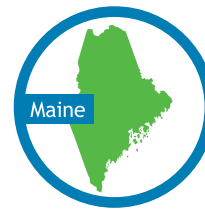
New reforms passed by the Ohio legislature earlier this year are [scheduled](#) to take effect on September 29.

Among the changes are a shortened statute of limitations for reporting injuries to one year, an increased standard for showing a firefighter's cancer diagnosis is linked to his work, and requires injured workers to appear for medical exams or risk having their claim dismissed. Claimant's attorneys opposed the changes as erosion of benefits while business leaders applaud the efforts to get worker's treatment earlier and back to work faster.



A [report](#) issued by the Tennessee Workers' Compensation Advisory Council this week examined the impact of the

state's 2014 workers' comp reforms, finding that the duration of claims was reduced by half, permanent partial disability benefits fell by almost two-thirds, and a higher return to work rate for injured employees. The reforms shifted the dispute-resolution process entirely into the administrative system, introduced a drug formulary, and changed the causation standard.



On Wednesday, the Maine Supreme Court [heard](#) oral arguments on a case that could require

workers' comp insurers to cover medical marijuana in the state. The insurer is challenging the Workers' Compensation Board decision that ordered the employer to pay the injured workers' \$350 monthly medical marijuana costs, arguing such a ruling would force them to break federal law. The court is not expected to issue a ruling for several months.



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Last week, the Division of Workers' Compensation issued another round of proposed

regulations for the state's new drug formulary. The minor changes include required prior-authorization for all compounds and "medically appropriate" transitions to formulary drugs for injured workers. It is expected to be the final round of changes before the Division formally adopts the new formulary, effective January 1, 2018.



At the direction of the Governor, the Arizona Department of Health Services issued

an action plan and legislative recommendations to combat the state's opioid epidemic. The legislative recommendations include expansion of the state's prescription drug monitoring program, establishment of a working group to identify prescribing trends, and increased education for prescribers.

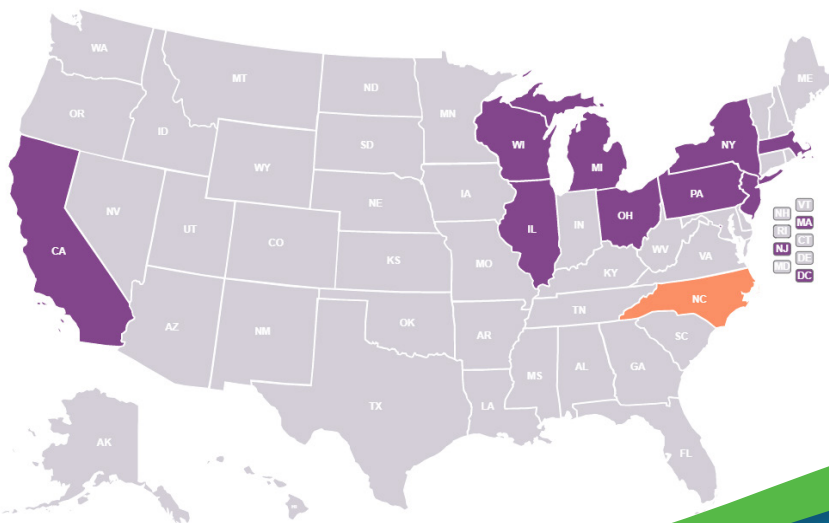
Articles of Interest

A look at 7-days in Ohio communities ravaged by the opioid and heroin epidemic.

States in Session

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■ In Session ■ Out of Session ■ In Special Session



Where in the U.S.A. are Jayne & Danielle?

Jayne will be in the home office next week. Danielle is headed to Chicago for the Republican Governor's Association policy conference and then Washington, DC.



Questions, Concerns, Suggestions? Let Us Know.

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