

January 20, 2017

Weekly Legislative Wrap-Up

State of the States



The Director of the Department of Industrial Relations issued a [response](#) to a local news channels'

investigation of California's workers' comp system. The reports, which have been released over the last few months, detail the delays and failings of the system. In response, the Director argued that it is working and that reforms passed over the last few years will continue to help reduce administrative burden and delays. The most recent reform came during last year's session, with the passage of a bill exempting injured workers from utilization reviews during the first 30 days of injury.



Last week the Governor [delivered](#) his State of the State address, outlining nearly 40 proposals

for the state to accomplish in the coming years. Contained within the speech was also a promise to reform the state's workers' compensation program. The Governor presented no specific reform plans nor has a bill been introduced in the State Assembly, however, last fall the Workers' Comp Board began work on regulations aimed at pharmacy benefits. New York last reformed their workers' comp program in 2007 but costs have been on the rise since.



The Connecticut House is currently considering several opioid related bills to address the

growing epidemic. The proposals would create a requirement that [information](#) about safe drug disposal be given with every opioid prescription and a prohibition on [prescribing](#) opioids to anyone under 18 outside of a hospital. Just last year the Governor signed into law a comprehensive opioid bill that, among other things, limited initial opioid prescriptions to a 7-day supply and strengthened the states PDMP.



[illegible]

all construction workers. Texas operates under an opt-out style workers' comp system where employers are not required to "subscribe" to the state's program. However, current law does require construction contractors on public projects to provide workers' comp coverage for their workers.



state's workers' compensation system. The proposed audit would focus on three key areas:

Nebraska

would establish an evidence-based drug formulary for the state's workers' comp program. Unlike other formularies in states like Texas, or those being considered by California and New York, Nebraska's proposed formulary would only cover Schedules II, III, IV, and V prescription drugs.



Jayne will be headed to Orlando for the national sales meeting and Danielle will be in the home office working with legislators on upcoming meetings.

Questions, Concerns,
Suggestions? Let Us Know.

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