

March 2, 2018

Weekly Legislative Wrap-Up

State of the States



Responding to a January opinion by the Court of Appeals, the Wisconsin legislature passed

[SB 781](#) to close a loophole that potentially allowed injured workers to file civil suits against employers who use staffing firms. The bill changes the statutory language to say that workers' comp is the exclusive remedy for any employee, "who has a right to make a claim." The original language stated it was the exclusive remedy for an employee who, "makes a claim," allowing the potential for a civil suit where an employee does not file a claim.



On Tuesday, the Indiana House voted 67-28 to pass [SB 369](#). The bill requires the adoption of the ODG workers'

comp drug formulary by the end of 2018 and was passed by the Senate last month. Prior to the final vote, an amendment was successfully adopted that grandfathers in pre-existing prescriptions until January 1, 2020, giving a full year to transition to formulary medications. The amended bill must be voted on again by the Senate before it can go to the Governor for his signature.



The Texas Division of Workers' Compensation [issued](#) a formal rules proposal

to expand telemedicine access to all injured workers in the state. Currently, the state allows telemedicine for the treatment of injured workers when an injured worker resides in a rural or underserved community. The proposed rule would allow for reimbursement of telemedicine, regardless of the location of the injured worker at the time of treatment.





State of the States



This week, the Minnesota House of Representatives took up an opioid bill that would create a

one cent per milligram fee on all opioids. Under this bill, a drug manufacturer is required to pay the fee to the Board of Pharmacy, and the money must be used to add or expand services for those addicted to opioids.



On Tuesday, the Arizona Senate passed SB 1111, 28-2. This bill originally restricted reimbursement

for medications dispensed outside of a licensed pharmacy, however, that provision was removed. The bill requires

doctors who are prescribing schedule II medications to conduct physical exams of the injured worker and develop a treatment plan that requires face-to-face meetings and criteria for tapering and discontinuing opioid prescriptions.

The Utah house passed HB 209, a bill that creates a working group that will study first responders'



access to workers' comp coverage for mental health issues. The bill originally created a presumption that a mental

health issue was caused by employment when it arose in a first responder. However, the bill's sponsor amended the bill shortly before the full House vote. The bill is now before the Senate.

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

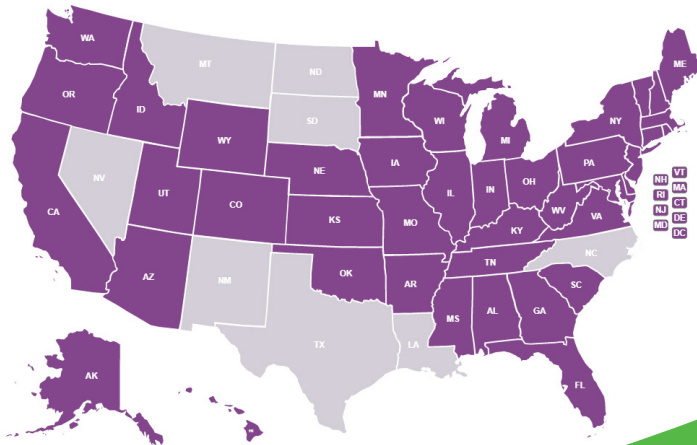
Danielle will be in the home office next week.



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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