

State of the States



After a quick process in the House, **HB 188** a bill to establish a PDMP in Missouri has stalled out in

the Senate. Since passing out of the House back in February, HB 188 failed to move in the Senate until this week when it was referred to the Senior, Families, and Children Committee. Most Missouri legislators and the Governor have expressed support for the measure, but Missouri has tried and failed to pass PDMP legislation for several years and remains the only state in the country without one. There are still 63 days in the legislative session for the Senate to consider the bill.



The Colorado bill to mandate the use of electronic prescribing is now being considered by

the full House. **SB 19-079** would require electronic prescribing for controlled substances beginning July 1, 2021 for physicians, physician assistants, APNs, and optometrists, with a mandate date of July 1, 2023 for dentists and practitioners in rural communities. The bill passed the Senate back in February.



On Wednesday, the Montana **House Business** and Labor Committee held a hearing on **SB** 78, a bill

that mandates insurers to notify an injured worker at least 90 days before terminating medical benefits. Under the bill, an insurer who fails to timely notify the injured worker would be required to continue paying for the medical treatment until the proper notice is provided. The Senate unanimously passed the bill last month.



Uber has agreed to a \$20 million settlement with drivers from California and Massachusetts who claim the company misclassified them to avoid providing benefits, including workers' compensation coverage.



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On Tuesday, the New Hampshire Supreme Court <u>ruled</u> that injured workers should be reimbursed

for medically necessary medical marijuana. The injured worker was participating in the Health Department's therapeutic cannabis program to treat his ongoing pain, but his workers' comp insurer denied reimbursement for marijuana stating it was not medically necessary. The Court overruled the Workers' Comp Appeals Board, who had found that the medical marijuana was medically necessary but did not mandate reimbursement because

marijuana remains federally prohibited and could subject the insurer to criminal prosecution.



This week, Idaho Governor Brad Little (R) signed a new <u>law</u> that allows first responders to collect workers'

compensation benefits for psychological injuries that lack a physical manifestation. Under the new law, a first responder will have to show clear and convincing evidence of a mental injury related to their work. Under the earlier version of the law, first responders could only file for workers' comp claims for physical injuries.

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

Danielle will be in the home office next week.



Questions, Concerns, Suggestions? Let Us Know.

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Article of Interest

CNBC **examines** if there is a link between the opioid epidemic and people not working.

States in Session



