

April 27, 2018

## Weekly Legislative Wrap-Up

### State of the States



The Texas Division of Workers' Compensation approved [regulations](#) that will allow health care providers

to be reimbursed for telemedicine services to injured workers. Under the new regulations, effective September 1, providers will be able to treat injured workers via telemedicine regardless of where the injured worker resides. Previously, telemedicine for workers' comp was limited to health professional shortage areas.



The Florida Department of Financial Services [announced](#) it is working with the Workers' Compensation

Research Institute to study how Florida's workers' comp market performs compared to other states. The state legislature has been considering workers' comp reform over the last few years after the state Supreme Court threw out caps on attorney's fees in 2017, but has failed to pass any meaningful legislation.



Today is the day. Governor Wolf must either sign or veto SB 936, the workers' comp drug formulary

bill by midnight tonight. If he takes no action, the bill will automatically become law without his signature. Last night, the Governor [announced](#) new executive actions to curb the overprescribing of opioids in workers' compensation, a move many think indicates he will veto SB 936. The executive action calls for the creation of opioid prescribing guidelines for workers' comp, a seven-day fill limit for opioids used to treat acute pain, utilization reviews to identify overprescribing of opioids, and increased use of the PDMP to monitor opioid prescriptions.





# State of the States



Last week the North Carolina Industrial Commission approved new opioid prescribing

[guidelines](#) for workers' comp patients. The commission is now developing a guidebook for providers to make it easier to understand and apply the rules. Under the guidelines, first fills of an opioid or other controlled substance are limited to a 5-day supply and cannot exceed 50 MEDs.



West Virginia Governor, Jim Justice, signed [SB 82](#) into law this week. The bill, effective June 9,

establishes a presumption that certain cancers and other diseases occurring in firefighters are presumed to be related to their work and therefore are covered under the workers' comp statute.

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

Danielle will be in Oklahoma for legislative visits the first half of next week.



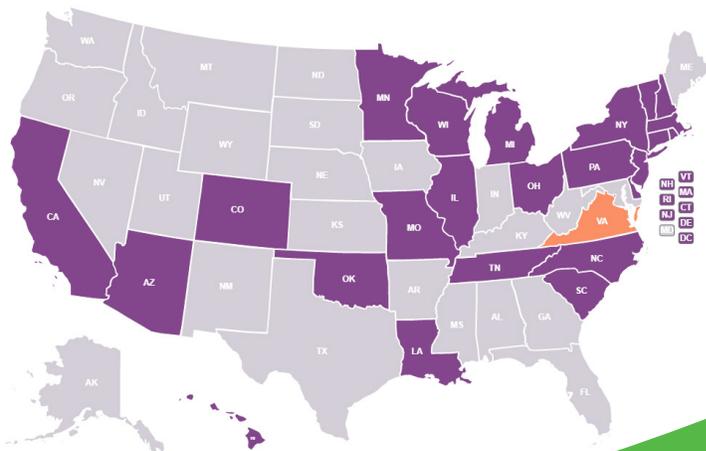
## Articles of Interest

The National Council on Compensation Insurance is releasing a three part series, "[On Opioids](#)" to provide insight into the workers' comp industry and opioids. The first installment focuses on workers' comp physicians' perspective and how the workers' comp system may be better suited than the general public to battle the opioid epidemic.

## States in Session

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

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