

May 11, 2018

Weekly Legislative Wrap-Up

State of the States



The Massachusetts House Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery released a redrafted [H. 4033](#) for

consideration. The bill, introduced by Governor Baker, addresses the state's opioid epidemic and originally called for the adoption of a workers' comp drug formulary. The redraft still includes a formulary but limits it to the use of opioids in treating an injured worker. The House and Senate are expected to vote on the bill by the end of June.



The Minnesota House voted late last week to [pass](#) a supplemental finance bill that includes a provision entitling

first responders to workers' comp coverage for post traumatic stress disorder. The workers' comp provision was added to the finance bill as an amendment before it passed the House 124-0. The Senate will now take up the measure, but the Governor has already made public statements that he fully supports the move.



On Wednesday, the U.S. House Education and the Workforce subcommittee [held](#) a hearing on the use of opioids in the federal workers' comp program. After the hearing, the subcommittee chairman, Representative Bradley Byrne, stated the federal government should examine state best practices to address opioid abuse in workers' comp and ways states are working with doctors to limit the overprescribing of opioids.





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On Tuesday, Governor Haslam, signed [SB 2191](#) into law. The law requires the Tennessee

Commissioner of Health to study the use of mandatory electronic prescribing for all controlled substances in the state. The Commissioner is required to report findings and recommendations to the legislature at the start of the 2019 session for consideration of further legislative action on the issue.



Effective Tuesday, the North Carolina Industrial Commission has begun implementing

new rules for the utilization of opioids in treating injured workers. The rules limit the strength and number of opioids available and even bans the use of fentanyl. The Commission released new [guidebooks](#) to help providers understand and implement the new restrictions.

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

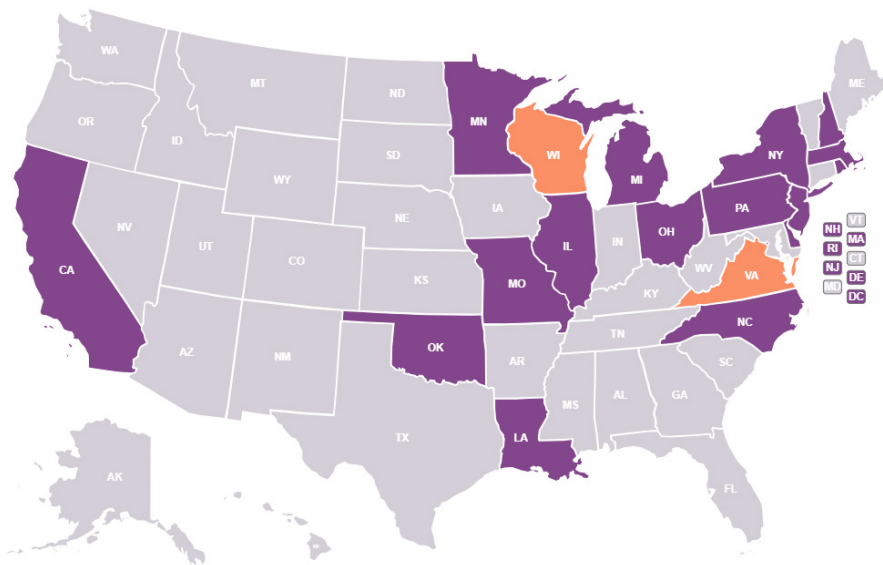
Danielle will be in the home office next week.



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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