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The Patient Advocate Pharmacy®

May 24, 2019

State of the States



Oklahoma

After battling over HB 2367 for much of the legislative session, both the House and Senate **voted** to

pass the conference committee version of the bill and sent it to the Governor for signature. The bill, touted as a comprehensive workers' comp overhaul, makes several changes to the system, including increasing injured workers pay and mandating the use of the sixth edition of the AMA guidelines. While the bill addressed many aspects of workers' comp reform, legislators have made it clear this is only the first step in addressing the system over the next few years.



New York

The New York Senate has **passed** a bill that would expand the pool of providers in

New York that can treat injured workers. S 3969A, now before the Assembly, would allow occupational therapy assistants to treat injured workers as part of a workers' comp claim so long as they are supervised by an authorized occupational therapist.



Minnesota

Minnesota Governor, Tim Walz (D), **signed** into law a bipartisan bill focused on addressing the opioid epidemic. The original version of the bill called for the adoption of an "opioid tax" for all opioid pills distributed, sold, or dispensed in the state. However, after complicated negotiations legislators agreed to impose a high registration fee on drug makers and distributors equaling over \$21 million annually which the state will use to address the opioid epidemic.



Texas

The Texas firefighters cancer presumption bill, **SB 2551**, passed by the Senate at the

beginning of the month expands the list of presumed cancers under workers' comp for first responders and imposes penalties on municipalities that deny legitimate claims. However, during the House's consideration of the bill, a last-minute amendment was made to apply the new law to all claims in existence at the time of passage. The Senate must now vote on the bill again before the end of session, which is only two days away.



State of the States



A controversial bill to add **warning** labels to opioids is slowly making progress through the

New Hampshire legislature. HB 359, which passed the House back in March, was amended by the Senate last week. The new

version of the bill requires any controlled substance containing opioids be labeled with a red sticker with the word "opioid" on the cap of the container. Opponents continue to fight the bill believing the red labels will make opioids easier to identify and put patients at risk of having their medications stolen.

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

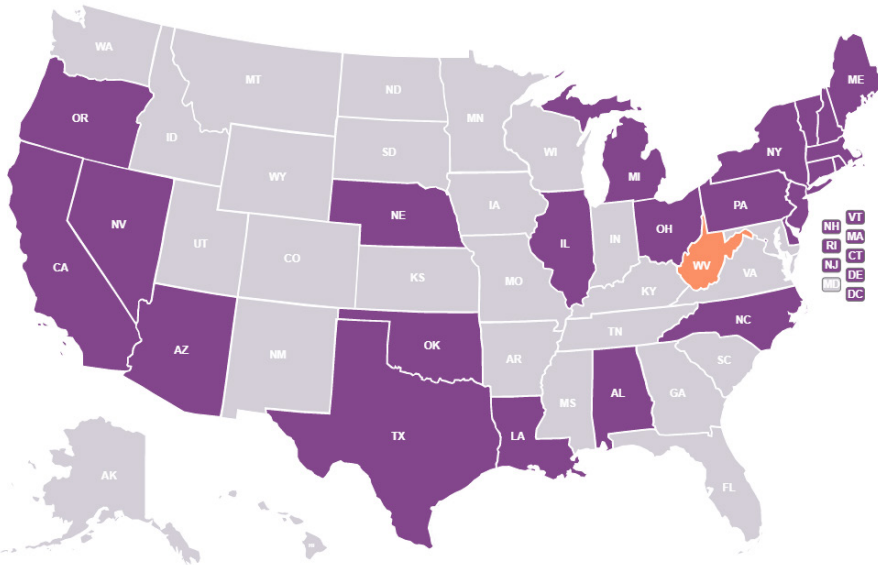
Danielle will be in the home office next week.



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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