

January 27, 2017

Weekly Legislative Wrap-Up

State of the States



On Tuesday, the Senate Executive Committee hosted a [hearing](#) on 9 of the 13 “Grand Bargain bills” including SB 12 which

targets workers’ compensation and calls for the development of a workers’ comp formulary. Although the original plan was to vote on the bills that day, opening it up to a full Senate vote Wednesday, legislators expressed some concerns about moving too fast. The bills will now remain with the Committee for further hearings and discussion. The Grand Bargain bills require the passage of all 13 of the bills for any to take effect.



Opioid related bills are making their way through the Virginia Senate. This week the Senate voted to pass both [SB](#)

[1180](#) and [SB 1230](#). SB 1230 would require electronic prescriptions for all opioid prescriptions, and SB 1180 calls on the Boards of Dentistry and Medicine to develop regulations for the prescribing of opioids in cases of acute and chronic pain. Both bills have been sent to the House for their consideration.



Several PDMP proposal bills are circulating in the Missouri legislature, but the one with support of Senate leaders,

[SB 231](#), faced its first hurdle this week. The bill was heard in the Senate Health and Pensions Committee on Wednesday, a committee chaired by the PDMP’s biggest opponent, Senator Schaaf. Schaaf successfully blocked passage of a PDMP bill last year and this year he has introduced his [own](#) PDMP legislation that would house patient history for only 180 days and limit doctors’ access to the information.





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As committee meetings continue in anticipation of the official start of session in March, a Senate bill expanding

workers' comp benefits for firefighters is being considered. The bill would create a legal presumption that certain types of cancer, such as prostate cancer, have been contracted in the line of duty.



Last Friday, AB 206 was introduced in the state Assembly. The bill would expand workers' comp coverage to include day

laborers, or those employees hired for less than 52 hours. The bill would also establish coverage for employees regardless of their immigration status, which means undocumented employees could receive workers' comp coverage in California.

Where in the U.S.A. are Jayne & Danielle?

Danielle will be starting the week in Connecticut for the ExecuSummit Workers' Comp Conference before heading to Maryland for legislative meetings with Jayne.



Article of Interest



For years, elderly patients suffering from chronic pain related to illnesses such as arthritis and cancer have been prescribed opioids and now we're getting a look at the opioid epidemic's impact on them.

Questions, Concerns, Suggestions? Let Us Know.

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States in Session

