

## **State of the States**



The Florida
Division of
Workers'
Compensation
released revised
proposed
rules regarding

what types of traumatic scenes may qualify a first responder for workers' comp benefits for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The proposed rules, implementing SB 376, outlines eight situations that constitute grievous bodily harm, including decapitation, exposure of one or more internal organs, and third-degree burns. First responders remain opposed to an attempt to specify which situations would give rise to PTSD.



This week, the Montana Department of Labor and Industry <u>held</u> a hearing on the

proposed rules adopting the ODG formulary. The state legislature passed SB 312 to authorize the agency to adopt a workers' comp

drug formulary back in 2017. The Department anticipates finalizing the rules by the end of the year and will begin applying the formulary to new injuries on April 1, 2019, with legacy claims following behind by April 1, 2020.

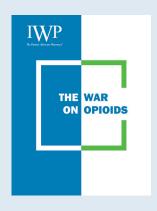


As of November 1, Oklahoma joined the growing list of states with initial fill limits for opioids.

Under the new law, initial opioid prescriptions for acute pain are limited to a 7-day supply of the lowest effective dose. The measure is the result of **SB 1446**, signed by the Governor back in May, to curb opioid abuse throughout the state. Other measures within the new law include required continuing education in pain management and opioid use for prescribers and makes failure to check the state's PDMP subject to disciplinary action by the Board of Medicine.



This week, IWP released its newest white paper, The War On Opioids. This white paper explores state and federal measures to curb the opioid epidemic and a comprehensive plan for the future.





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Going against the Tennessee Workers' Compensation Advisory Council, the Department

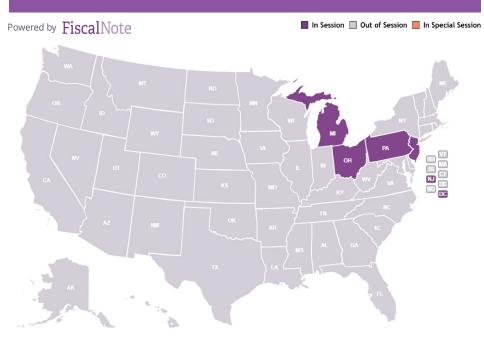
of Commerce and Insurance has **approved** a 19% rate reduction beginning March 1, 2019. Last month, the NCCI recommended a

19.1% rate reduction, but two other actuarial firms conducted reviews that recommended a 9% reduction. Based on the feedback, the Advisory Council recommended a middle of the road reduction of 14%. This is the sixth straight year Tennessee has seen a rate reduction.

#### **Article of Interest**

Curious how Tuesday's elections might impact workers' compensation in 2019? Check out our latest **blog** post for more information on how the elections may affect the workers' comp programs in states like Oklahoma, Illinois, and Maryland.

#### **States in Session**



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

Danielle will be in Washington D.C. on Tuesday and Wednesday for a conference.



# Questions, Concerns, Suggestions? Let Us Know.

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