

December 22, 2017

## Weekly Legislative Wrap-Up

### State of the States



The Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission [rejected](#) a proposal that would increase medical

reimbursements for certain services by 30%. Providers pushed for the increase, arguing the reimbursement rates in Illinois were significantly lower than those in surrounding states, like Iowa and Indiana. Overall, medical costs in Illinois remain significantly higher than the rest of the Midwest. The Commission denied the increase stating there has been no showing that the current reimbursement rates have resulted in reducing access to quality care.



This week, nine Michigan municipalities [filed](#) a federal lawsuit against drug manufacturers,

distributors and some of the country's largest retail pharmacies. The lawsuit, who lists Purdue Pharma, the maker of Oxycontin, CVS, Walgreens, and Costco, among the defendants, claims that these companies are responsible for the vast number of nationwide drug overdose deaths. They argue that opioids were overly promoted, highly addictive and pushed through the drug pipeline to patients.



A newly introduced bill, [HB 148](#), would require physicians to query

the state's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) before issuing a prescription for an opioid, including any refills of existing prescriptions. Another bill introduced this week, [HB 132](#), would limit opioid prescriptions handed out in emergency departments of corporations to a 10-day supply, and restricts pharmacists from dispensing prescriptions not in accordance with that requirement.



# State of the States



The legislator who has called for the adoption of a workers' comp drug formulary for the past few years [announced](#) he will be retiring before the start of the 2018 session. Representative Broadwater, a former director of the Workers' Compensation Administration, spent two years pushing bills to create a formulary, all of which failed

to pass the legislature. With his resignation, the date of a drug formulary is unclear.



A few months after an investigation into attorney-owned pharmacies, members of one of Pennsylvania's biggest law firms are [removing](#) their names as owners of the firm's workers' comp pharmacy.

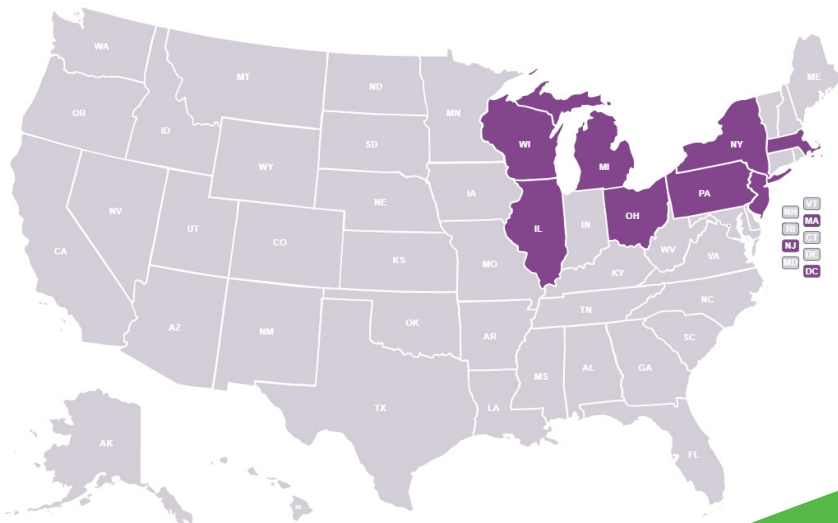
## Article of Interest

According to the Centers for Diseases Control (CDC) American life expectancy at birth has [declined](#) for the second year in a row based on the 21% increase in drug overdose deaths. In 2016, the United States saw a 28% increase in opioid overdose deaths.

## States in Session

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■ In Session ■ Out of Session ■ In Special Session



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

Danielle will be out of the office next week, returning January 2.

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

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