

March 24, 2017

Weekly Legislative Wrap-Up

State of the States



Last week, new emergency [rules](#) regarding opioid prescriptions went into effect in Virginia.

The regulations would limit prescriptions for acute pain to a seven (7) day supply and urge doctors to keep opioid prescriptions to 50 morphine equivalent doses (MED) per day. The regulations also urge doctors to limit chronic pain opioid treatment to three (3) months, and require querying of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) every three (3) months during a course of treatment.



After facing significant opposition to a workers' comp reform bill, the House negotiated

a [compromise](#) removing some of the more controversial proposals. The bill still places limits on coverage for injuries related to pre-existing conditions, but the provision that would have ended permanent total disability payments at the age of 67 was removed. The amended bill was passed out of the House with a 55-38 vote and is now before the Senate, but Democrat lawmakers still oppose the bill.



The Colorado House Committee on Public Health is considering a bill that would expand mental

health coverage for workers' compensation claims. [HB 1229](#) adds Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) to the list of covered mental impairments under the workers' comp program. The bill would also allow benefits for a mental impairment for a worker who was attacked, witnessed a death, or witnessed a serious bodily injury. A similar bill was introduced last session by the same sponsor.



A bill introduced earlier this month, [SB 653](#), would establish an opt-out program for workers' comp

benefits in Arkansas. The bill had its first hearing this week and is being opposed by the American Insurance Association.



State of the States



A newly introduced bill in the Montana Senate could prevent some workers from receiving any workers' comp coverage. [SB 116](#) would make a worker ineligible for workers' comp benefits if they fail to disclose a known medical condition that might be relevant to the job, prior to being hired, and that medical condition is in any way connected to the injury.



The Ohio police union is putting [pressure](#) on the Bureau of Workers' Compensation

to cover Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) claims that do not have physical injuries associated with them. Currently, in Ohio, a first responder can qualify for workers' comp benefits for mental health impairment as long as there is also a physical injury related. The union has asked for this change several times over the last few years with no success.



The Utah legislature passed a bill that would limit prescriptions for Schedule II and III opioids to a seven (7) day fill limit. [HB 50](#) is now awaiting the Governor's signature.

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

Jayne and Danielle will be in the home office next week.

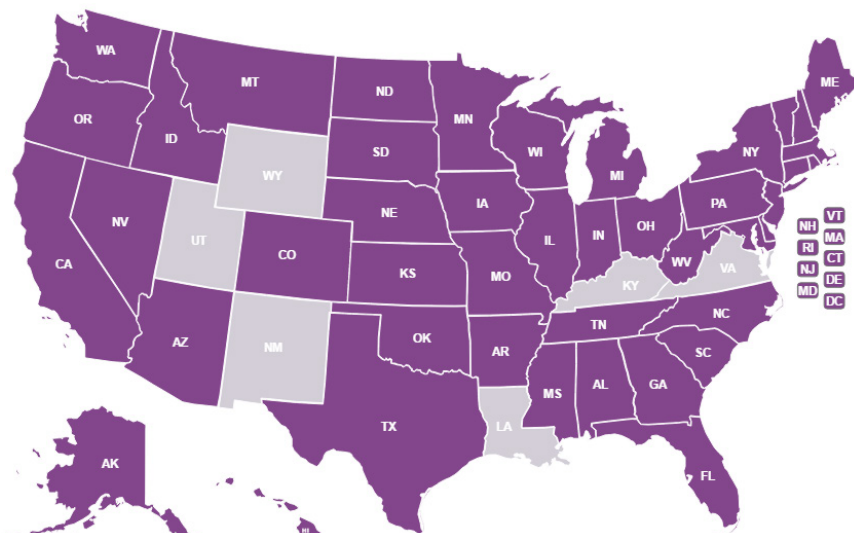


Questions, Concerns, Suggestions? Let Us Know.

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States in Session



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