

March 31, 2017

Weekly Legislative Wrap-Up

State of the States



This week, the House's proposed workers' comp bill passed out of the House Insurance and

Banking Subcommittee but was [abruptly](#) removed from the House Commerce Committee's schedule and remains unscheduled for any hearings at this time. Meanwhile, in the Senate, their workers' comp bill, SB 1582, is scheduled for its first hearing on Monday with the Senate Banking and Insurance Committee. Both bills address the attorney fee schedule that was overturned by the state Supreme Court in 2016 and allow for adjustments of up to \$250 an hour for attorney's fees.



The Kentucky legislature ended their session last night [without](#) the Senate considering

HB 296. The bill would have established an evidence based drug formulary for the state's workers' comp program and capped partial disability benefits at 15-years, with some exceptions. After quickly passing the House in February, the bill stalled in the Senate, facing significant pushback from workers, especially the state's police union.



On Saturday, new [requirements](#) on prescribers to consult the state's Prescription Drug Monitoring

Program (PDMP) go into effect. The new rules will now require a physician to query the PDMP before prescribing an opioid to a patient- along with the new requirements, a revamped PDMP is also being launched that will help alert physicians and pharmacies when patients are showing signs of addiction.



The North Carolina Industrial Commission [announced](#) the first meeting of their opioid task

force will convene next week. The task force is expected to consider the adoption of a formulary to help address concerns about the use of opioids to treat workplace injuries.





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New opioid [guidelines](#) were released by the Connecticut Workers' Compensation

Commission this week. The guidelines, which incorporate the reforms signed into law during the 2016 session, establishes 7-day initial fill limits, includes requirements on physicians to query the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP), and mandates urine testing for chronic pain opioid patients.



[HB 1229](#), which allows first responders to collect workers' comp benefits for Post-Traumatic

Stress Disorder (PTSD) caused by their job, passed out of the House with a 52-11 vote. The bill is now before the Senate for consideration.



This week, President Trump [announced](#) the creation of an opioid commission to outline recommendations and identify federal resources to tackle the opioid epidemic across the country. The Commission will be led by New Jersey Governor, Chris Christie (R), who earlier this year signed into law opioid legislation that included the most restrictive limit on an opioid, a 5-day fill limit. Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker (R) and North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper (D) will also participate.

Where in the U.S.A. are Jayne & Danielle?
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Jayne and Danielle will be in the home office next week.



Questions, Concerns, Suggestions? Let Us Know.
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States in Session

