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The Patient Advocate Pharmacy®

April 14, 2017

Weekly Legislative Wrap-Up

State of the States



A bill that would create coverage for mental injuries, including post-traumatic stress disorder,

in first responders will get a vote in the state Senate even though it has not passed the House yet. [H.197](#) has slowly made its way through two House committees but with the end of the session nearing, the Senate will take up the bill's language in an effort to make sure the priority legislation gets full consideration. The bill stalled in the House over concerns of its fiscal impact on towns and municipalities.



The Senate Appropriations Committee unanimously approved SB 1582 on Thursday. The

bill, which provides for several workers' comp reforms, would allow attorney's fees to be adjusted by a compensation judge, up to \$250/hour, and removes a \$1,500 fee cap on medical-only claims. SB 1582 is now awaiting a hearing with the Rules Committee before a full Senate vote can be conducted. Meanwhile, last week the House voted their amended workers' comp reform bill out of Committee and is expected to be up for a full House vote shortly.





State of the States



Over the weekend, the New York legislature and Governor Cuomo passed into law a 2017-2018 state budget that includes several workers' comp reforms. One of the biggest reforms is the establishment of a drug formulary for the state's workers' comp program by December 31, 2017. The law leaves it to the Workers' Compensation Board to develop and implement a comprehensive drug formulary.



Arkansas concluded their legislative session last week without passing a bill that would allow employers to opt-out of workers comp. SB653 was introduced back in March and referred to the Senate Committee on Insurance and Commerce but was not even put up for a vote by the Committee before the session ended.

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

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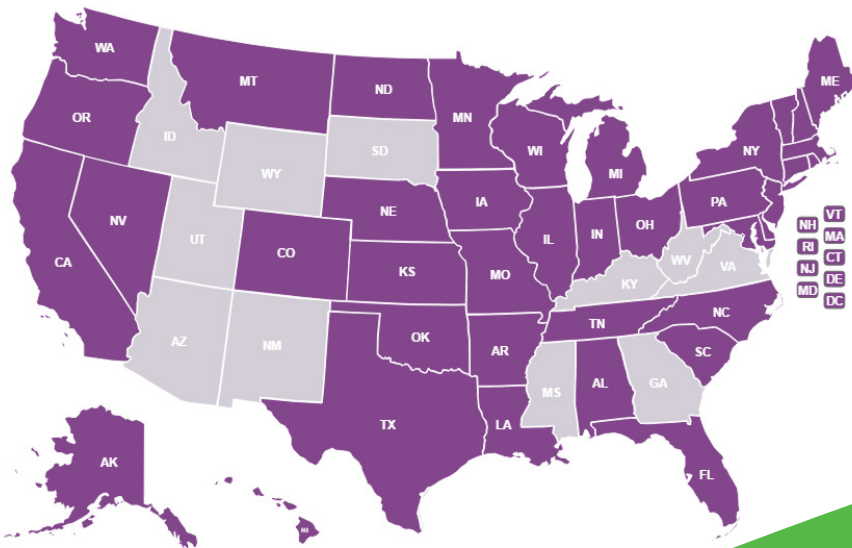
Jayne will be in the home office and Danielle will be in Colorado for the Colorado Workers' Compensation Education Conference the first half of the week.




Article of Interest

As workers' comp systems have become a key source for opioid addiction, many states are looking to adjust their practices to reduce opioid prescriptions and help those who are already hooked.

States in Session



Questions, Concerns, Suggestions? Let Us Know.

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