

April 28, 2017

## Weekly Legislative Wrap-Up

### State of the States



A bill that would expand the use of Georgia's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

(PDMP) is [awaiting](#) Governor Deal's signature. HB 249, which passed the House and Senate back in March, would require all prescribers to register with the PDMP, dispensers to report to the PDMP within 24 hours, and requires prescribers to consult the PDMP before prescribing a prescription for an opioid that is longer than a three (3)-day supply.



With only a week left in session, there has been slow movement on the [two](#) workers' comp

reform bills HB 7085 and SB 1582, both of which are currently in the Senate. The bills diverge on key issues, including attorneys' fees, which would still need to be agreed upon before a final bill could be approved by both houses. SB 1582 has yet to be scheduled for a full Senate vote, and although HB 7085 passed the House last week, it has not yet been assigned to a Senate committee for consideration.



A bill that would allow coverage for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) for first responders is

headed to the Governor for his signature. [HB 1229](#), which passed the house just last month, got its final approval from the Senate with a vote of 28-6. The bill would also provide benefits to workers who are attacked or witness a violent attack while at work.



The Department of Workers' Compensation will [hold](#) its first public hearing on their proposed closed drug formulary on

Monday, May 1. The formulary is being established as required by the 2015 bill AB 1124. It is scheduled to take effect July 1, 2017.





# State of the States



[HB 192](#), which would create a seven (7) -day fill limit on opioids, passed out of its first committee this week with a vote of 12-0. Meanwhile, the same Committee also voted to pass [HB 490](#) which would establish an Opioid and Heroin Advisory Council to coordinate resources for the state's response to the opioid epidemic.

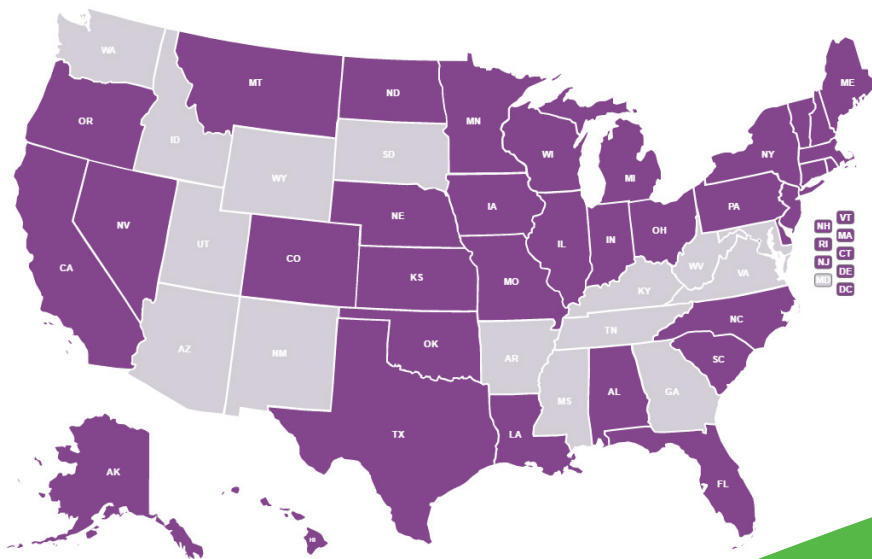


The federal government is [readying](#) to provide \$485 million in grants to states to improve their prescription drug monitoring programs and increase use of overdose medications. The grants are the result of a bill passed last year by Congress aiming to give states the tools to combat the growing opioid epidemic. Another round of grants will be made available in 2018.

## Article of Interest

A new [report](#) released by the WCRI examined the effect of provider choice on overall costs of a workers' comp claim, comparing states that allow the employer to choose a provider to states where an injured worker could choose their provider. The study found that overall; there was no cost savings when the employer chose the provider.

## States in Session



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

Jayne will be in the home office and Danielle will be in California on Monday for the DWC hearing then back in the home office for the rest of the week.



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

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