

April 7, 2017

Weekly Legislative Wrap-Up

State of the States



The senate workers' comp reform bill made it past its first committee this week, without amendments. The bill is now before the Senate Appropriations Committee for consideration. Meanwhile, the House [bill](#) was finally up for a hearing in the House Commerce Committee on Thursday. In an effort to gain more support from the business community, several amendments were offered including a cap on attorney's fees at \$150 an hour, compared to the original bill language which capped it at \$250.



After failing to pass a budget on time, the New York legislature has [passed](#) a budget extender through May, giving the Governor and legislators more time to negotiate a comprehensive budget bill that some legislators are hoping will include workers' comp reform. The reforms under consideration include caps on partial disability claim length, decreases in schedule loss of use awards, and increases in interpretation resources for non-English speaking workers.



Just days before the start of Louisiana's legislative session, two bills were introduced in the House that would establish a drug formulary for the workers' comp system. [HB 529](#) requires the department to adopt a formulary by July 1, 2018 but does not specify a formulary to be used. In contrast, [HB 592](#) requires the adoption of the ODG formulary by January 1, 2018. The session begins on Monday.



Governor Martinez [signed](#) into law a bill that would allow an employer to terminate an employee after they return to work from a workers' comp claim, so long as the employee is being terminated due to misconduct.





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2017 might be the year that Missouri finally gets a Prescription Drug Monitoring

Program (PDMP). After fighting off PDMP bills for five years, the Senator that has stood in opposition to a PDMP due to privacy concerns is finally willing to support a PDMP as long as there is a requirement on physicians. The Senator intends to propose an amendment that would require physicians to consult the PDMP or face medical malpractice claims.



On Monday, the Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission will vote to approve the new medical

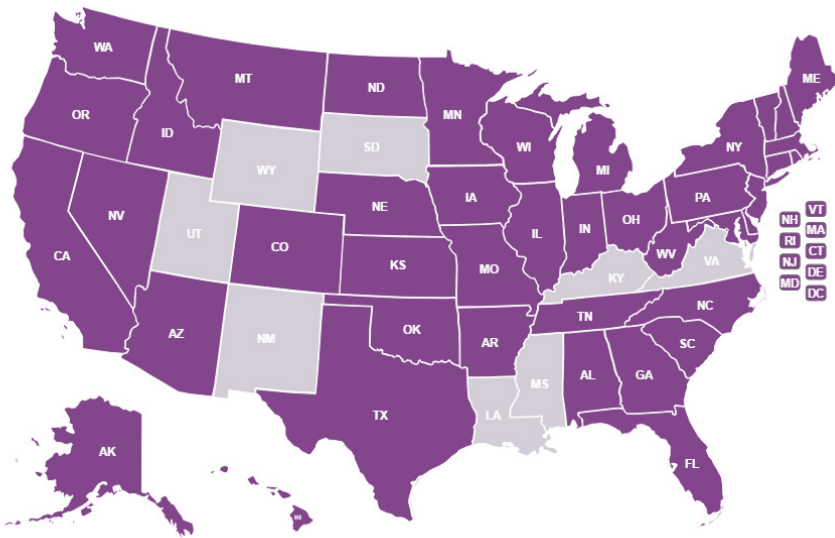
fee schedule. If approved, the fee schedule will be opened for public comment and a public hearing in May before being put into in January 2018. The proposed fee schedule is broken down based on six regions to accommodate geographic diversity throughout the state.

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

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



States in Session



Questions, Concerns, Suggestions? Let Us Know.

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