

June 23, 2017

Weekly Legislative Wrap-Up

State of the States



HB 18, a bill that would establish a drug formulary for Pennsylvania's workers' comp system has had

a busy week. On Tuesday, the bill, along with 50 amendments, was heard on the floor of the House where it failed to pass, facing strong opposition from Democrats. The bill was sent back to the Human Services Committee for further consideration. Then on Thursday, the committee approved it, voting it back out to the Rules Committee for full House consideration next week. Trial attorneys in the state have strongly opposed the formulary bill since its introduction.



A new **law** that goes into effect July 1, 2017, will make it easier for employees in Vermont to make a mental health

claim under workers' comp. The law establishes a new standard that makes mental illness compensable under workers comp when the claim comes from a work-related event or stress and the employee can show the event triggering it was extraordinary or unusual in comparison to pressures experienced for the average worker. The law also creates a presumption for first responders that a PTSD claim is related to work.



26 Attorney Generals announced a **joint** investigation into the marketing and sales practices of drug companies that produce opioids. The group includes the AGs from California, Illinois, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania. Meanwhile, the Attorney General from Missouri **announced** on Wednesday he filed lawsuits against three pharma companies responsible for the production of opioids, citing a "campaign of fraud and deception" that led to the opioid epidemic in his state.





State of the States



The Department of Workers' Compensation has released a [proposed rule](#) that would

require prior-authorization for all compounds in Texas' workers' comp system. Currently, the law has a loophole that requires no prior-authorization for a compound if it contains only Y-drugs.

workers' comp benefits from the state. The rules put into place the framework for drivers after a law passed in April required workers' comp coverage for rideshare drivers. Under the rules, drivers can petition for compensation for workers' comp benefits if they sustain the injury while driving for the company.



The New York Workers' Compensation Board has [adopted](#) emergency rules

to allow rideshare drivers (such as Uber and Lyft) to obtain



This week Governor Malloy signed [HB 7052](#) into law. The bill would limit opioid

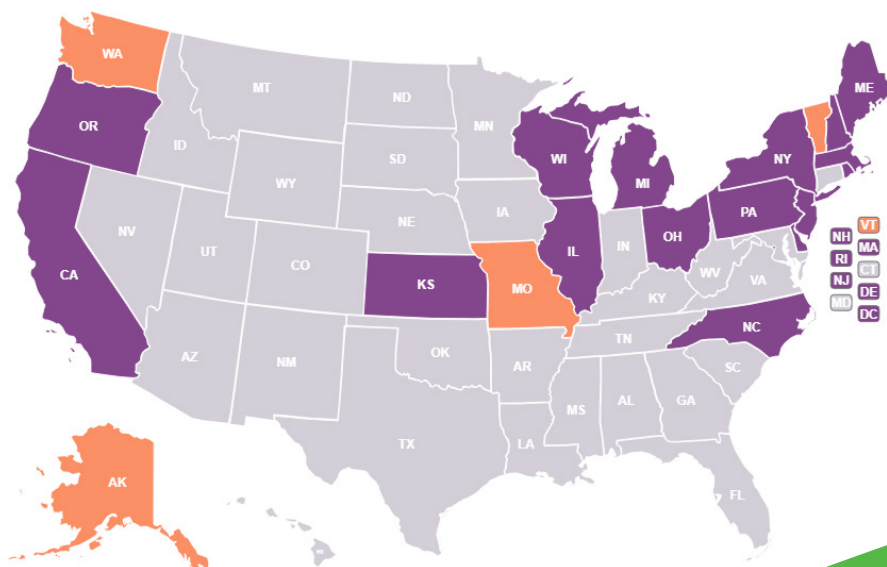
prescriptions for minors to a five (5) day supply and requires electronic prescribing for all controlled substances starting in 2018.

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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