

July 7, 2017

Weekly Legislative Wrap-Up

State of the States



The state's implementation date for a workers' comp drug formulary has come and gone

with no formulary released by the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR). The state was set to implement a formulary on July 1, but the DIR has delayed implementation as it continues to amend the [proposed](#) formulary and associated regulations. The DIR is expected to release a new round of proposed regulations in the coming weeks, starting another 15-day comment period. Full implementation is now expected by January 1, 2018.



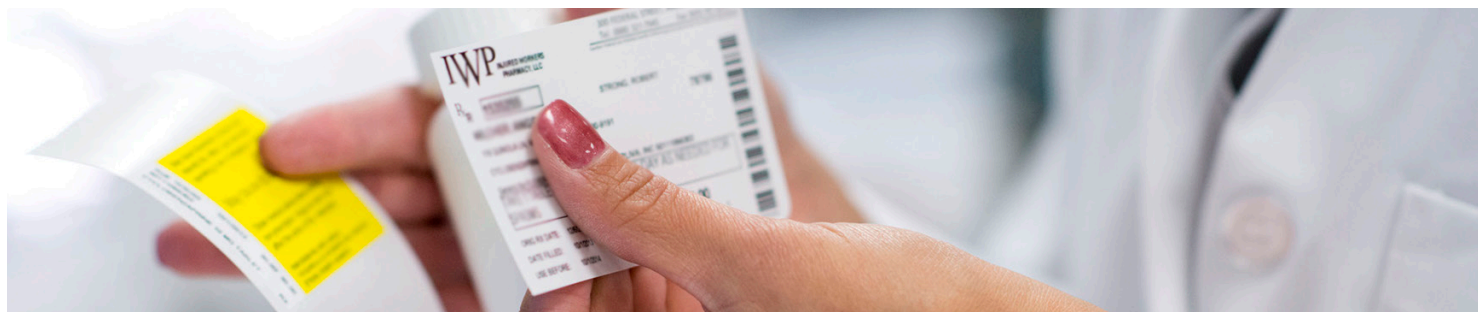
Over the weekend, in a last ditch effort, the Illinois House and Senate [passed](#) several budget bills to give

Illinois its first budget in years. However, in order to get something passed, legislators dropped several reforms including a workers' comp bill. The Governor quickly vetoed the budget, citing too high of a tax increase and no reforms. Just 30 minutes later, the Senate voted to override the veto and we now await a vote in the House to officially override the Governor's veto and give Illinois a budget.



Last week, Hawaii's largest workers' comp insurer [announced](#) it would no longer provide policies to

the states marijuana dispensaries. Although marijuana is legal in Hawaii for medicinal use, it remains illegal on the federal level, raising concerns for the insurer about criminal liability for providing coverage. Hawaii requires employers to provide workers' comp coverage in order to operate within the state.



State of the States



Late last week the Louisiana Supreme Court issued a ruling in Burgess v. Sewerage &

Water Board of New Orleans, finding that an employer may direct a patient to use a specific pharmacy. The court agreed with similar rulings in the states' third and fifth circuits that found an employee may choose their physician but there is no such right extended to pharmacy choice.



Last Friday, the Governor of North Carolina signed the Strengthening Opioid Misuse Prevention

(STOP) Act into law. The bill requires electronic prescriptions for certain Schedule II and III controlled substances by 2020, and limits initial prescriptions for opioids to a five (5) day supply starting January 1, 2018.

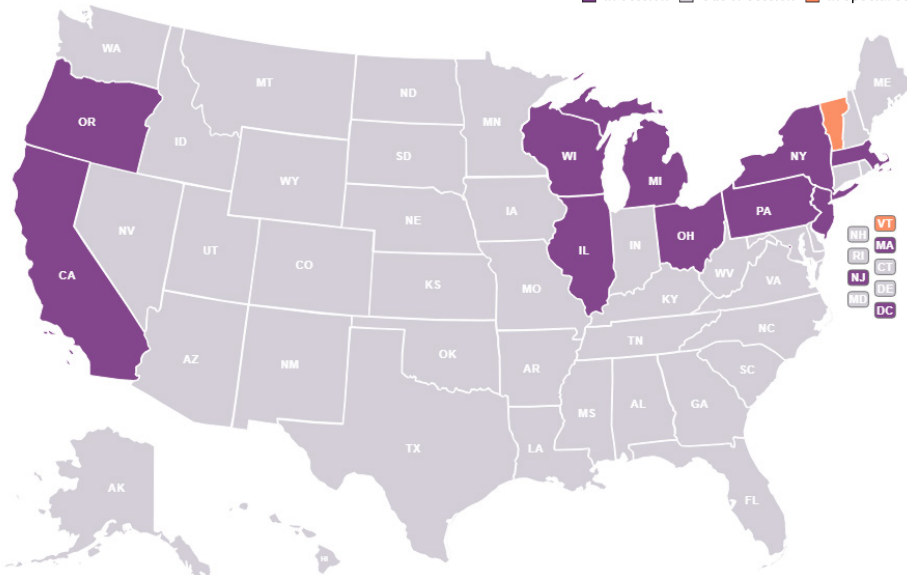
Where in the U.S.A. are Jayne & Danielle?

Jayne will be in Providence, Rhode Island for the National Governors Association Summer Meeting and Danielle is headed to Chicago on Wednesday for the National Conference of Insurance Legislators Summer



States in Session

■ In Session ■ Out of Session ■ In Special Session



Questions, Concerns, Suggestions? Let Us Know.

Jayne Kresac, Esq.
VP, Legal and Government Affairs
jkresac@iwpharmacy.com
www.iwpharmacy.com/about-iwp/
government-affairs
978.809.2148

Danielle Jaffee, Esq.
Manager of Government Affairs
djaffee@iwpharmacy.com
www.iwpharmacy.com/about-iwp/
government-affairs
978.770.8047

IWP

PO Box 338 Methuen, MA 01844

The Patient Advocate Pharmacy®