



IWP
The Patient Advocate Pharmacy®

February 1, 2019

State of the States



Connecticut

A bill before the Connecticut General Assembly would penalize insurers for unnecessary delays in injured worker's claims. **HB 6916** would apply the state's Unfair Insurance Practices Act to any insurance company that displays a pattern of delays in the treatment of injured workers, including delays in medical care, benefits, or hearings. Under the Unfair Insurance Practices Act insurers could face penalties up to \$20,000 for each offense.



Montana

Montana is considering a **bill** that would let injured workers choose their treating physician for a workers' comp claim. Currently, Montana law allows the insurer/employer to designate and approve treating physicians. The bill also allows



Arizona

providers outside of a preferred provider organization to provide emergency medical treatment and be paid 100% of the fee schedule.

Less than a month from its effective date, the Arizona legislature is considering pushing back

the enforcement of mandatory electronic prescribing for schedule II medications to January 1, 2020. Last year, the legislature passed a bill mandating eprescribing for all Schedule IIs in metropolitan areas of Arizona beginning January 1, 2019, but **SB 1108** would stop enforcement for another year to allow providers to establish their eprescribe system.



Hawaii

The Hawaii legislature is considering bills that would **mandate** insurance coverage for the

use of medical marijuana for the treatment of a workplace injury. The bill is the first of its kind in the country to mandate coverage for medical marijuana which raises legal concerns for insurers to pay for medical marijuana, a schedule I controlled substance that is still illegal on the federal level. The bills have not yet been scheduled for hearing.



Pennsylvania

A Pennsylvania House **bill** would increase penalties on employers caught misclassifying workers as independent contractors. Under the proposed bill, employers who fail to classify their workers properly will be subject to criminal penalties, including a \$1,000 fine and prohibition from doing business with the state for five years. The bill is currently with the House Labor and Industries committee with no hearing scheduled.

State of the States



Among a flurry of workers' comp related bills in the Texas legislature is **SB 163**, which would mandate

workers' comp coverage for construction contractors that do business with the state. The bill would end the longstanding tradition in Texas of a fully voluntary workers' compensation system.



The Virginia Senate has passed **SB 1030** to expand cancer presumptions for firefighters in the state.

Under the proposed bill, colon, brain, and testicular cancer would be presumed an occupational

disease for firefighters and therefore eligible for workers' compensation. Presently, only leukemia, pancreatic, prostate, rectal, throat, ovarian, and breast cancer are included in the presumption list.



The Minnesota House is considering a bill that would address the opioid epidemic through various

avenues. **SF 751** would require prescribers to query the PDMP prior to prescribing a controlled substance, establish initial fill limits for acute pain, and charge opioid manufacturers and wholesale drug distributors a registration fee to fund the state's opioid epidemic response.

Where in the U.S.A. is Danielle?

Danielle will be in the home office next week.



Questions, Concerns, Suggestions? Let Us Know.

Danielle Jaffee, Esq.
Director of Legal and Government Affairs
djaffee@iwpharmacy.com
www.iwpharmacy.com/about-iwp/government-affairs

978.770.8047

States in Session

Powered by **FiscalNote**

■ In Session ■ Out of Session ■ In Special Session

