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The Patient Advocate Pharmacy®

February 15, 2019

State of the States



Governor Larry Hogan has submitted a bill to the Maryland Senate to expand cancer presumptions

for firefighters under the workers' comp statute. **SB 160** adds bladder, kidney, and renal cell cancer to the list of diseases Maryland presumes are compensable for firefighters. There are two other presumption bills currently in the legislature; **SB 646** allows for firefighters with 10 years of cumulative service to qualify for the presumptions and **HB 1119** extends occupational disease presumptions to sheriff's deputies and correctional officers.



On Wednesday, the Montana Senate voted 35-15 to pass **SB 160**, a bill to expand firefighter

presumptions under the workers'

comp statute. The bill would add conditions, such as bladder cancer, leukemia, and pulmonary disease, to the list of presumed occupational diseases for firefighters. The bill now awaits consideration by the House.



After years of failed attempts at clarifying Texas' cancer presumption statute for firefighters,

municipalities and firefighter unions are optimistic that amendments to **HB 21** may address the issue this year. While **HB 21** focuses on penalties for uncooperative insurers, municipalities are negotiating to use it as a vehicle to specify which cancers are included in the presumption. Meanwhile, the firefighter's union seeks to use the bill to add clarifying language that reminds municipalities they are required to cover cancer in firefighters.



The Missouri legislature is quickly moving a PDMP **bill** through the process. On Monday, the

Senate voted 103 to 53 to pass **HB 188**, a bill to require the establishment of a PDMP by January 1, 2021. The bill will now be considered by the House before being sent to the Governor for signature. Missouri is the only state in the country that lacks a PDMP.



The Nebraska Business and Labor Committee will hold a hearing on **LB 487** in early March. The bill

calls on the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Court to adopt an evidence-based drug formulary by January 1, 2020.

State of the States



The West Virginia House is considering a bill to mandate the use of **electronic prescribing** by

July 1, 2019. The bill exempts certain prescribers, including

veterinarians, from the mandate and does not require a pharmacy to verify that a written or oral prescription properly falls into one of the exemptions. The House Judiciary will take up the bill, but will have to move quickly as there are only 22 days left in the West Virginia legislative session.

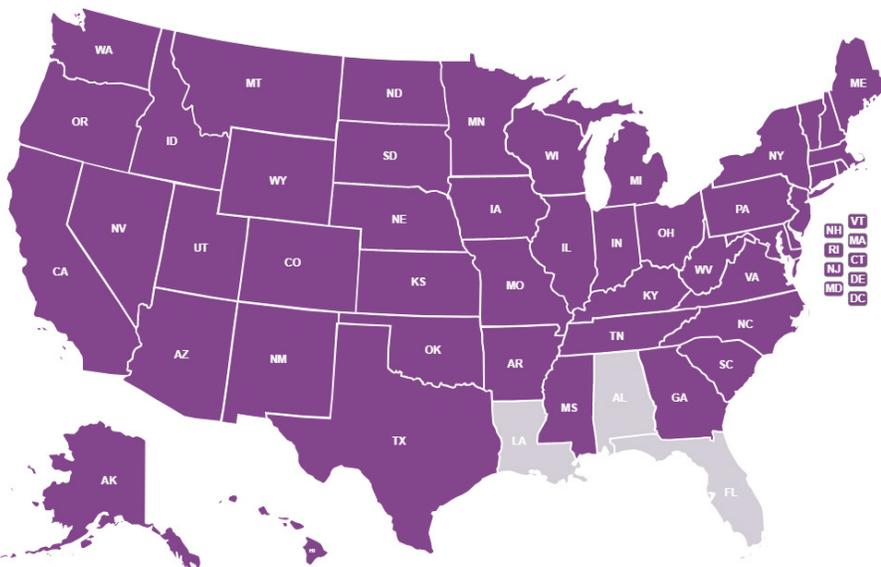
Article of Interest

In a first of its kind move, the U.S. Department of Justice has **temporarily** shut down two Tennessee-based pharmacies for violations of the Controlled Substances Act and the False Claims Act. The DOJ successfully argued that pharmacists filled prescriptions for controlled substances outside the usual course of professional practice and in violation of the pharmacists' responsibility to make sure prescriptions were for a legitimate medical purpose.

States in Session

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■ In Session ■ Out of Session ■ In Special Session



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

Danielle will be in Annapolis, Maryland on Wednesday for legislative meetings and Washington, D.C. on Friday and Saturday for the National Governor's Association meeting.



Questions, Concerns, Suggestions? Let Us Know.

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