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The Patient Advocate Pharmacy®

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State of the States



A comprehensive workers' comp reform bill, HB 2367, is again facing challenges preventing its consideration

by the House. This week, the sponsor of the bill filed a committee **substitute** version that removed all proposed changes to pharmacy, including a change to the fee schedule and direction of care. However, the sponsor delayed consideration of the bill for yet another week while stakeholders continue to fight over other elements of the bill.



The House is considering a bill to limit opioid prescriptions for the treatment of acute pain. **HB 1866** would

limit initial treatment involving an opioid to a 7-day supply and require prescribers to conduct a physical exam. They would

also need to discuss the patient's history with medications other than opioids, and develop a treatment plan before prescribing opioids for acute pain. More than half the states in the country currently have initial fill limits for opioids.



The Utah Senate is one vote away from approving **HB 154**, a bill focused on smoothing the path for first

responders to receive mental health coverage. The bill creates the Mental Health Protections for First Responders Workgroup to review state barriers to mental health treatment for first responders and explore statutory requirements to compensate first responders for such injuries. The group must report their findings to the legislature by September 30, 2020.



A bill to mandate the use of electronic prescribing in Florida is being considered by the House Health

Quality Subcommittee. **HB 831**, introduced last week, requires all prescriptions to be sent electronically beginning January 1, 2020. The bill also specifically notes that nothing in the mandate should be interpreted to restrict a patient's right to choose their pharmacy. Florida is one of four states that statutorily protects a patient's right to choose a pharmacy.



State of the States



The New Hampshire Department of Labor is **preparing** to launch an Opioid Pilot Mediation

Program to voluntarily transition injured workers away from

opioids and find non-narcotic pain relief options. The program aims to bring injured workers and insurance carriers together to address the issue and avoid costly and time-consuming litigation. Massachusetts introduced a similar two-year plan back in 2017.

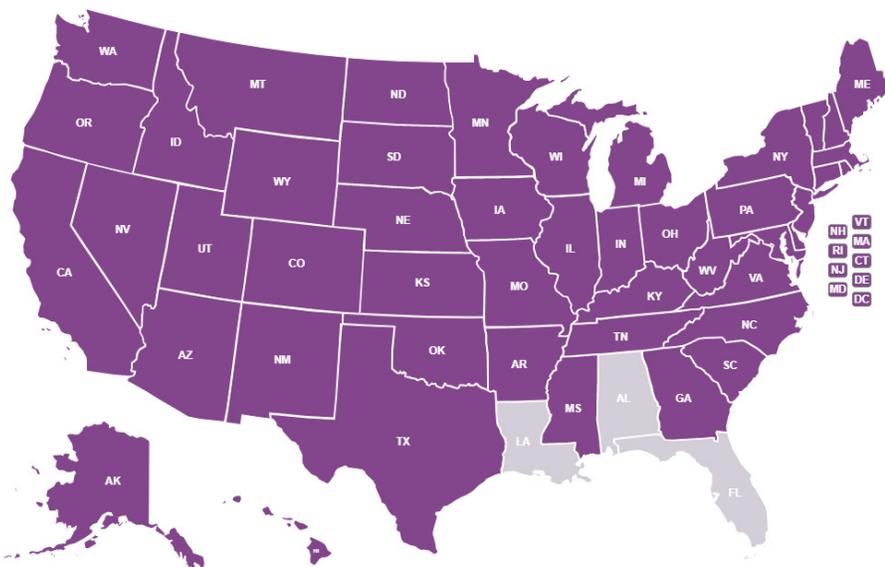
Industry News

The Ohio attorney general is **threatening** to file a lawsuit against OptumRx if the company doesn't pay \$16 million to the state Bureau of Workers' Compensation. The AG argues that OptumRx overcharged the BWC for generic drugs. Under the contract between the two parties, OptumRx is required to pass any savings to the state when drug prices decreased, but they failed to do so dating back to 2015.

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 Arizona for legislative meetings on Wednesday and the Workers' Compensation Research Institute's Annual Conference on Thursday and Friday.



Questions, Concerns, Suggestions? Let Us Know.

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