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State of the States



Even with two years of declining workers' comp rates, the Florida legislature is **considering** two bills that

address workers' comp, HB 1399 and SB 1636. HB 1399, which does not contain attorney fee caps, passed out of the House Insurance and Banking Subcommittee and is now awaiting its next stop. In contrast, SB 1636 which re-institutes attorney fee caps, was postponed for consideration on Monday before being scheduled for hearing on April 1. Presently, neither bill has the backing of legislative leadership and most stakeholders remain opposed to any reform in the absence of rate increases.



The Minnesota legislature is considering a bill that would increase registration fees for

pharmaceutical manufacturers and drug wholesalers that sell or distribute opioids in the state. **HF 400**, which passed the House last week, would bring \$20 million in new revenue into the state to address opioid prevention, education, intervention, and recovery. The bill is now being considered by the Senate.



Missouri is slowly making its way to establishing a Prescription Drug Monitoring Program.

HB 188, which passed the House back in February and then stalled in the Senate, finally went to public hearing with the Senate's Seniors, Families, and Children Committee on Wednesday and can now be voted on by the Committee. Missouri remains the only state in the country without a PDMP after years of failed bills.



This week, Purdue Pharma announced a \$270 million **settlement** with Oklahoma over their marketing of opioids and role in the opioid epidemic. The majority of the settlement money will establish a National Center for Addiction Studies and Treatment at Oklahoma State University. With the settlement, Purdue has delayed their first trip to court over their marketing of OxyContin until later this fall when it faces the first of many lawsuits in federal court.

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On March 13, the Oklahoma House voted to pass **HB 2367** with a vote of 95-6. The bill looks to make significant

reforms to the workers' comp system following several court decisions invalidating the 2013 workers' comp reforms. HB 2367 was assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee this week for consideration, but its fate remains uncertain as the Chamber of Commerce continues to express concerns about some of the provisions.



On Tuesday, Governor Bevin (R) signed into law **HB 342**, a bill that mandates the use of electronic

prescriptions for all controlled substances. The mandate goes into effect January 1, 2021 and requires the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to establish regulations to implement the mandate and allow for waivers of the requirements when necessary.

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

Danielle will be in Washington, D.C. the first half of the week for a Legislative Summit.



Article of Interest

As Uber and Lyft consider going public, the companies must face continued **concerns** over worker misclassification in their companies. For years, the ridesharing apps have faced criticism, and court challenges, over their classification of drivers as contractors, not entitled to many benefits like workers' comp.

Questions, Concerns, Suggestions? Let Us Know.

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