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## State of the States



A bill that would provide cancer coverage for first responders in Mississippi is awaiting Governor

Bryant's (R) signature. SB 2835 **bypasses** the state's workers' comp system to provide cancer coverage for first responders through a defined benefit package. The state had considered other legislation that would have established the cancer presumption in workers' comp, but municipalities opposed the bill over concerns of the costs associated with such a presumption.



On Tuesday, several Massachusetts state officials, **sent** the U.S. Food and Drug Administration

a letter asking for help in combatting the opioid epidemic.

Governor Baker, Lt. Governor Polito, House Speaker DeLeo, and Senate President Spilka all signed on to that letter that asked the FDA Commissioner to return to labeling language that made it clear that opioids are only effective for short-term treatment and require "unit of dose" packaging for opioids.



A bill to make it easier for firefighters in Maryland to qualify for cancer presumptions caused by work

is on its way to Governor Larry Hogan (R) for his approval. On Wednesday, the House voted 131-4 to pass **HB 604** and allow firefighters who have served for 10 years of cumulative service to qualify for a presumption that certain types of cancer are occupational in nature.



On Tuesday, the Texas House Business and Industry Committee held a public hearing on **HB 733**.

If passed, the bill would allow physicians who were removed from the approved doctors list prior to September 1, 2007 to reapply to the list, a right doctors removed after September 1, 2007 already retain.



