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The Patient Advocate Pharmacy®

April 26, 2019

State of the States



Florida

A bill to provide additional cancer presumption benefits to firefighters in Florida is awaiting the

governor's signature. **SB 426** was unanimously passed by both the House and Senate this week. Under the bill, firefighters diagnosed with one of the 21 listed cancers would be eligible to receive disability or death benefits outside of the workers' comp system, meaning, if the firefighter forgoes a workers' comp claim they would be entitled to cancer treatment and a one-time cash payout of \$25,000.



Oklahoma

An amended comprehensive workers' comp reform bill, **HB 2367**, was unanimously passed by

the Oklahoma Senate on Wednesday. The bill, which attempts to address several

state supreme court decisions throwing out earlier reforms, will require reconsideration by the House before it can head to the Governor for signature. Among the elements of the bill is the mandated use of the Sixth Edition of the AMA guide and the ODG treatment guidelines.



Montana

Montana Governor Steve Bullock has **signed** a law into effect making it easier for firefighters

to receive workers' comp benefits. After a lengthy battle, SB 160, will go into effect July 1, 2019. Under the new law, several cancers, including mesothelioma and brain cancer, will be presumed to be caused by the firefighter's work and therefore covered under workers' comp. Insurers may only deny such a claim if they can prove that the firefighter was not exposed to enough smoke or particles to have caused the illness.



Texas

The Texas legislature is **considering** a bill that would mandate the use of electronic prescribing

for all controlled substances beginning January 1, 2021. The Public Health Committee held a public hearing on the bill last week and is expected to vote on it by early next week.



Michigan

On Monday, the Michigan Attorney General **announced** she would be establishing a new enforcement

unit to prosecute worker misclassifications which result in employers avoiding responsibility for overtime, health benefits, and workers' compensation. The AG was elected last year on a promise to protect workers and labor unions.

State of the States

Industry News

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the first **generic** version of Narcan nasal spray. Generic versions of naloxone have been available in injection forms, but this is the first generic nasal spray.

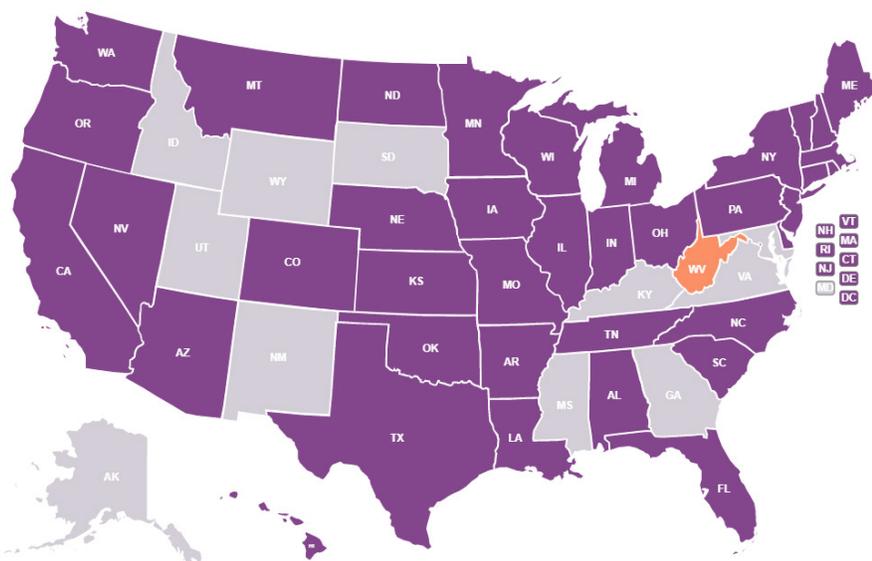
Article of Interest

The Department of Justice has filed its first criminal **charges** against a drug distributor and two of its executives. On Tuesday, the DOJ charged Rochester Drug Cooperative and their former CEO with drug trafficking charges, arguing they “knowingly and intentionally violated federal narcotics laws by distributing dangerous, highly addictive opioids to pharmacy customers that it knew were being sold and used illicitly.”

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 Harrisburg, PA on Monday and Tuesday for legislative meetings.



Questions, Concerns, Suggestions? Let Us Know.

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