

IWP

The Patient Advocate Pharmacy®

May 31, 2019

State of the States



A joint legislative committee voted yesterday to endorse a workers' comp reform **bill** that is expected to

substantially increase benefits and costs for the workers' comp system in Maine. The bill, which is a compilation of several separate workers' comp reform measures introduced this year, would raise the maximum weekly workers' comp benefit, reinstate a cost-of-living adjustment, and increase benefits for partial disabilities. The bill now awaits a vote of both the House and Senate.



After failing to pass a PDMP bill for the seventh year in a row, Missouri newspapers are **analyzing** why

Missouri is the only state in the country without a PDMP in light of the growing opioid epidemic.



Before adjourning for the legislative year, the Texas legislature finally passed **SB 2551**, a bill

to expand cancer presumptions for firefighters. The bill, which was heavily negotiated during its ride through the House and Senate, now brings the list of cancers presumed to be work-related to 11. Prior iterations of the law were confusing at best for municipalities and firefighters, with firefighters arguing only about 3 cancers were covered. In addition, the bill provides more time to insurers to deny or accept a cancer claim.



A bill that would require workers' comp insurance to cover detoxification treatments is

moving through the Connecticut legislature during the final days of session. **HB 5883** was passed by

the House and is now before the Senate for consideration during the final 5 days of session. Under the law, detoxification treatment would be included in workers' comp benefits for any injured worker who requires it as a result of using prescribed prescription drugs for their injury.



Last Thursday, the New Jersey Assembly voted unanimously to pass **A 3292**. The bill, which was passed

by the Senate back in March, now goes to the Governor for signature. If signed into law, pharmacies would be required to include a warning label on every opioid container dispensed detailing the risks associated with opioid medications, including the risk of addiction and overdose.



State of the States



Last week, Governor Larry Hogan (R), completed his signing and vetoing of bills passed

by the legislature earlier this year. Among the bills vetoed was [SB 916](#), which would have allowed licensed physicians to dispense topical medications directly from their offices.

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

Danielle will be in Harrisburg, PA on Monday for a legislative event.



Article of Interest

This week, the first trial regarding one of the 1,900 opioid lawsuits filed across the country [began](#) in Oklahoma. The lawsuit brought by the Oklahoma Attorney General against Johnson & Johnson alleges the drug maker contributed to the opioid epidemic that killed thousands of Oklahomans. Other manufacturers, including Purdue Pharma, were originally named in the lawsuit, but settled with Oklahoma prior to the trial. The results of this trial will impact the 1,900 similar federal and states opioid lawsuits filed across the country.

Questions, Concerns, Suggestions? Let Us Know.

Danielle Jaffee, Esq.
Director of Legal and Government Affairs
djaffee@iwpharmacy.com
www.iwpharmacy.com/about-iwpharmacy/government-affairs

978.770.8047

States in Session

Powered by [FiscalNote](#)

■ In Session ■ Out of Session ■ In Special Session

