



December 21, 2018

# State of the States



Representative Thierry has pre-filed two opioid related bills in the Texas House of Representatives.

**HB 562** requires the Board of Pharmacy to develop warning labels that must be adhered to all opioid prescriptions dispensed in the state to warn of the risk of overdose and addiction. **HB 563** would also require warnings regarding the risk of overdose and addiction associated with opioids to be provided to the individual "taking possession" of the opioid prescription from a pharmacy. Texas biennial session kicks off January 8, 2019.



A bill pre-filed in Virginia would classify PTSD in first responders as an occupational disease even without a corresponding physical injury.

**HB 1706** states that if it is demonstrated by clear and convincing evidence that the PTSD resulted from documented exposure to a qualifying event during work, that it is a covered condition under the state's workers' comp statute. The bill goes on to define qualifying events to include a dead minor, witnessing the death that involved grievous bodily harm, and witnessing a homicide. Virginia begins their session on January 10, 2019.



The Kentucky Department of Insurance released draft formulary **regulations** late last week. The formulary would become effective July 1, 2019 and would require pre-approval for all compounds and "N" drugs. The regulations require payment for a 7-day supply of any approved drug if prescribed within the first seven

days of the injury even if the claim is later denied. Last month, the Commissioner announced Kentucky would adopt the ODG formulary.



A bill that would mandate electronic prescribing in Missouri has been pre-filed ahead of the 2019 session. **HB 293** requires all prescriptions to be submitted electronically beginning August 28, 2020. The bill outlines several exceptions to the requirement, including veterinarians, physician dispensing, and where a pharmacy is located outside of the state. Missouri's session begins January 9, 2019.



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The Maine Workers' Compensation Board has **proposed** an update to the medical fee schedule, effective January 1. The update will

increase conversion factors and some base rates will be increased by as much as 40%. The changes are expected to increase system costs by 1.5%. The Board is required to review and update the fee schedule as necessary every three years.

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

Danielle will be out of the office next week. Happy Holidays!

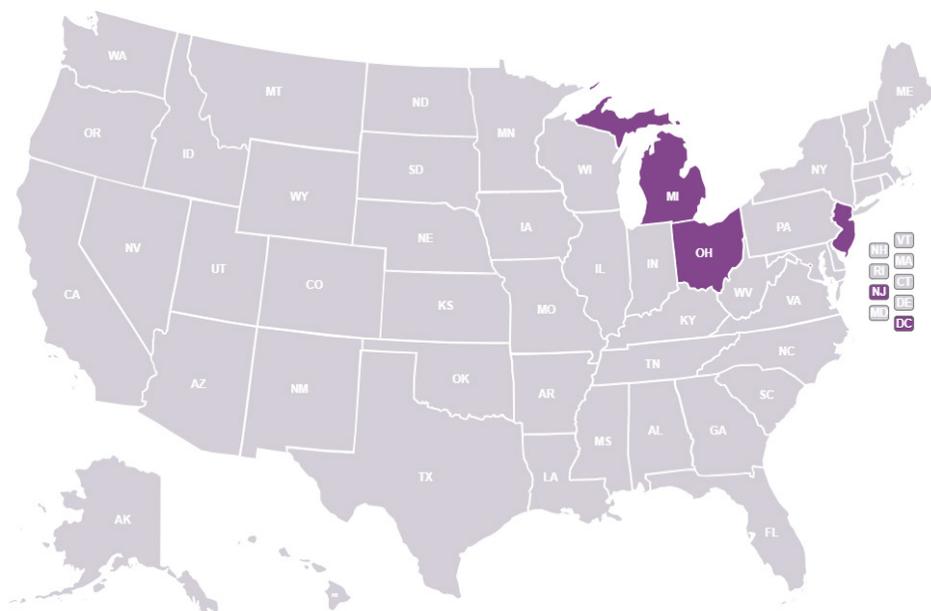
## Industry News

The Bureau of Labor Statistic **released** a new report regarding fatal occupational injuries. According the census, fatal injuries have slightly declined from 2016. Fatal falls reached their highest level in the history of the report, accounting for 17% of all fatal work injuries in 2017. Unintentional overdoses due to non-medical use of drugs while at work increased 25% for the fifth year in a row.

## States in Session

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■ In Session ■ Out of Session ■ In Special Session



## Questions, Concerns, Suggestions? Let Us Know.

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