

August 25, 2017

Weekly Legislative Wrap-Up

State of the States



After a state Supreme Court ruling back in June that found Pennsylvania's impairment

rating evaluation process unconstitutional, employers are facing a 6.06 percent increase in costs. The increase could be withdrawn before its implementation date of November 1 if the legislature passes a bill to reverse the impact of the court decision. Legislators are due back to work after Labor Day and are facing pressure from employers to focus on workers' compensation cost reforms.



This week Governor Rauner vetoed a bill that would have established a state-run workers'

compensation insurance company. A bill passed by the legislature to help tackle increasing costs by introducing more competition into the market. At the veto, the Governor told lawmakers to focus their attention on tougher standards for workers to prove an injury happened on the job and lower fees for doctors, hospitals, and pharmacies.



The Division of Workers' Compensation proposed a rule that would allow designated

doctors to see more than one workers' compensation patient a day. Designated doctors are used by the division to resolve medical disputes, determine impairment ratings, and establish maximum medical improvements. The proposed change is an attempt to bring more doctors into the program.



