

June 16, 2017

Weekly Legislative Wrap-Up

State of the States



North Carolina

The North Carolina Industrial Relations Commission has [asked](#) the state legislature to grant them

expedited rulemaking authority to implement pain management and opioid guidelines for treating injured workers. Additionally, the Commission's Opioid Task Force is hearing presentations from nationally-recognized drug formulary companies, including ACOEM and ODG. The Task Force is expected to make a legislative recommendation regarding formularies by the end of 2017.



West Virginia

Last week, the West Virginia Supreme Court [ruled](#) that inmates on work-release do not qualify for workers'

compensation under the state laws. The unanimous decision, upheld the Workers' Comp Board's 2015 decision, stating that inmates participating in the programs are not technically employees, and therefore do not qualify for benefits, such as workers' comp.



Michigan

A new Workers' Comp Research Institute [study](#) found that income benefits for injured workers in Michigan within

10 years of injury were only 88% of what an injured worker would have earned if they were not injured on the job. Workers on one to twelve months of temporary disability benefits totaled income between 91% and 95% of their projected earnings if not injured.



National

Last Thursday, for the first time in its history, the Food and Drug Administration [asked](#) a drug company to take one of their medications off the market. The drug is an opioid medication, Opana ER, which has been heavily abused and linked to outbreaks of HIV and hepatitis C.





State of the States



On Tuesday, the House Labor and Industry Committee

voted 14-12 to pass HB 18 out of committee. The bill, which establishes a drug formulary for Pennsylvania's workers' comp system, was amended by the committee to allow for more stakeholder involvement in the selection of the formulary.



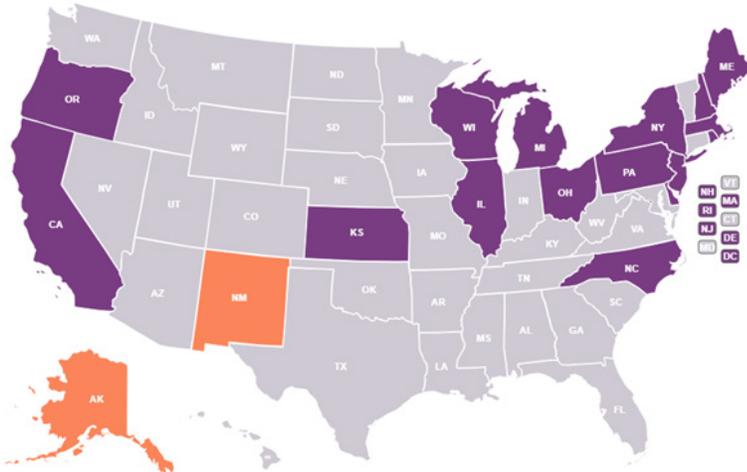
Louisiana officially adjourned their 2017 session last Thursday and sent all

passed bills to the Governor for his consideration. Among the bills already signed into law by the Governor is [HB 192](#) which establishes a seven (7) day initial fill limit on opioids for acute pain. Additionally, the Governor signed [HB 490](#) to create an opioid advisory council. Both bills are effective August 1.

Article of Interest

A year after the Pulse Nightclub shooting, and some first responders to the tragedy are still dealing with the effects. [A look](#) at the fight of some first responders to get help with their PTSD through the state's workers' comp system.

States in Session



Where in the U.S.A. are Jayne & Danielle?

Jayne and Danielle will be in the home office next week.



Questions, Concerns, Suggestions? Let Us Know.

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