



State or Federal Issues Contacts: Please refer to the list of State Relations Executives at the end of this report.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY—LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATES

This report includes descriptions and/or excerpts of relevant bills that passed the first chamber, passed the second chamber, or were enacted during the specific periods. In addition, a recap of significant legislative and judicial activity impacting the workers compensation system is included in the first report published each month. This report is issued on a weekly basis throughout the legislative season and provides updates on the content of these bills if and when they progress through the legislative process. This report covers bills from states where NCCI provides ratemaking services (see state list under Contact Information) and the US Congress.

BILLS ENACTED

There were no relevant workers compensation-related bills enacted within the one-week period ending December 29, 2017.

BILLS PASSING SECOND CHAMBER

There were no relevant workers compensation-related bills that passed the second chamber within the one-week period ending December 29, 2017.

BILLS PASSING FIRST CHAMBER

There were no relevant workers compensation-related bills that passed the first chamber within the one-week period ending December 29, 2017.

The bills included in the following section have been filed, but have not yet passed the first chamber.

STATE LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

State	Update
Missouri	<p>Legislative pre-filings began December 1.</p> <p>First responder presumptions of cancer and definition of first responder measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SB 570/SB 621 create a rebuttable presumption that cancer contracted by paid or volunteer firefighters is presumed to be an occupational disease, if certain enumerated conditions are met. • HB 1243 defines “emergency worker” to include, as statutorily defined, air ambulance pilot, air ambulance registered professional nurse, emergency medical technician, firefighter, or law enforcement officer. The measure also provides for a rebuttable presumption that post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) diagnosed in an emergency worker, during his or her service or within three years of the date of last active service, shall be a compensable occupational disease. <p>SB 735 eliminates monetary bonuses from being considered as payroll for workers compensation premium, limited to 3% of the employee’s yearly compensation, along with employer contributions to employee’s individual retirement accounts.</p> <p>SB 736 prohibits the conditioning of eligibility for certain state and utility contracts to be contingent on experience rating.</p>

	SB 601 would create a mandate for the Division of Workers' Compensation to implement a medical fee schedule.
New Hampshire	SB 352 allows an injured employee who is dissatisfied with a determination by the employer or the employer's insurance carrier to obtain an independent examination. (Current law limits this option to injured employees covered by a managed care organization.) HB 1740 repeals the provision established by SB 59 (2017), which required workers compensation carriers to pay for the cost of blood testing orders related to a first responder or healthcare provider's exposures to another person's bodily fluids.
Vermont	SB 205 requires the Commissioner of Financial Regulation to direct the National Council on Compensation Insurance to create a new workers compensation class code for individuals providing homemaker and companion services.

STATE COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

State	Update
Illinois	In a 5-4 vote on December 20, the Workers' Compensation Commission declined to adopt the Medical Fee Advisory Board recommendation to increase the reimbursement of six evaluation and management codes by 30%. <i>NCCI's analysis indicated that the proposed change would have increased system costs by approximately 0.4% (\$11M).</i>

OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST

State	Update
Virginia	The state's fee schedule for medical services became effective January 1, 2018. This fee schedule applies to healthcare services provided to injured workers for any dates of service on or after January 1, 2018, without regard to the date of injury. The fee schedule was developed pursuant to HB 378 (2016).

Contact Information

If you have any questions about the legislation or proposals mentioned, please contact the appropriate NCCI state relations executive (listed below) or a representative of your local insurance trade association.

State	State Relations Executive	Phone Number
IN, NC, SC, TN	Amy Quinn	803-356-0851
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CT, ME, NH, RI	Justin Moulton	860-969-7903
VT	Laura Backus Hall	802-454-1800
AL, GA, LA, MS	Laura Hart Bryan	225-618-8168
AK, CO, NM, UT	Maggie Karpuk	818-707-8374
AR, IL, TX	Terri Robinson	501-333-2835
Federal Issues	Tim Tucker	202-403-8526
ID, MT, OR	Todd Johnson	503-892-8919

This report is informational and is not intended to provide an interpretation of state and federal legislation.