



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 September 28, 2018.

BILLS PASSING SECOND CHAMBER

There were no relevant workers compensation-related bills that passed the second chamber within the one-week period ending September 28, 2018.

BILLS PASSING FIRST CHAMBER

There were no relevant workers compensation-related bills that passed the first chamber within the one-week period ending September 28, 2018.

FEDERAL ISSUES

Issue	Update
Oversight of Air Ambulance Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congress has agreed on legislation to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for five years. The reauthorization legislation includes a provision to create the Advisory Committee on Air Ambulance and Patient Billing (Committee) in response to concerns of state regulators, insurers, and consumer groups on the impact of air ambulance costs for individuals (i.e., balance billing), as well as the healthcare and workers compensation systems. • The Committee is charged with recommending to the FAA options to improve transparency and the disclosure of charges and fees for air ambulance services. The recommendations are to be included in a report to Congress. The air ambulance provision also requires the Secretary of Transportation to consider the recommendations and issue regulations or other guidance as deemed necessary: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) To require air ambulance providers to regularly report data to the Department of Transportation (2) To increase transparency regarding Department of Transportation actions related to consumer complaints (3) To provide other consumer protections for customers of air ambulance providers • Congress is expected to pass a short-term FAA extension through early October, before passing the five-year reauthorization legislation. • Note that Congress has not acted on legislation sponsored by Senator Jon Tester (D-MT) that would clarify states' authority to regulate certain aspects of air ambulance services as they relate to networks and billing.
Federal Response to Opioids	In the Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment (SUPPORT) for Patients and Communities Act of 2018, Congress has passed sweeping legislation intended to respond to the opioids crisis. The bill includes, but is not limited to, provisions that would, among other things, allocate

	<p>federal funds for expanded treatment, research of opioid alternatives, and enhanced law enforcement/interdiction activities.</p> <p>Related to workers compensation, the legislation increases funding for states to implement prescription drug monitoring programs (PDMPs) and develop agreements with bordering states to give access to healthcare providers. Further, beginning in 2022, states must require providers to check patients' prescription drug history through a PDMP before prescribing a controlled substance.</p>
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STATE COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

State	Update
Oregon	<p>The Oregon Management-Labor Advisory Committee held a meeting on October 1 in Salem, OR, to discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physician assistant expanded authority • Managed care organizations “come along” providers • Workers’ Benefit Fund balance study • Department of Consumer and Business Services updates including Medical Arbiter and Employer at Injury Program
Vermont	<p>The final proposed Vermont workers compensation vocational rehabilitation rules have been filed with the Secretary of State’s office and the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules (LCAR). The public comment period ended August 31. The rules are tentatively on the LCAR agenda for October 18.</p>

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	561-893-3812
HI, NV, UT	Brett Barratt	801-401-6464
MO, NE, OK, SD	Carla Townsend	561-893-3819
AZ, IA, KS, KY	Clarissa Preston	561-945-4517
DC, MD, NM, VA, WV	David Benedict	804-380-3005
CO, FL	Dawn Ingham	561-893-3165
CT, ME, NH, RI	Justin Moulton	860-969-7903
VT	Laura Backus Hall	802-454-1800
AL, GA, LA, MS	Laura Hart Bryan	225-635-4481
AR, IL, TX	Terri Robinson	501-333-2835
Federal Issues	Tim Tucker	202-403-8526
AK, 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.