

NEW WORKERS' COMPENSATION LEGISLATION INTRODUCED FOR 2015

The California Legislature's deadline for new bill introductions has just passed and there were several bills that could impact workers' compensation under consideration during the current session:

[AB 511 \(Gipson\) – Public Safety Presumptions](#)

This bill would expand the coverage relating to compensable injury, to include other, full-time peace officers. The bill would also expand the coverage to include, upon the approval of an ordinance or resolution adopted by the governing body of the contracting public agency, or the adoption of language to this effect in a city or county charter, or pursuant to the terms and conditions of employment set forth in a collective bargaining agreement, a custody assistant, correctional officer, security officer, or security assistant employed by a public agency, or a peace officer other than a peace officer to whom these provisions already apply. This bill would repeal the current language under Labor Code Section 3212-3212.12, the presumption provisions and add new language pursuant to this bill.

[AB 1124 \(Perea\) – Pharmacy Formulary](#)

This bill would require the administrative director to establish a formulary for the purposes of prescribing prescription medications.

If the administrative director establishes a formulary, this may result in appropriate medications being dispensed and possibly reduce physicians from prescribing addictive opioids that may not be medically necessary.

[SB 563 \(Senator Pan\) – Utilization Review Payment Methodologies](#)

This bill would require each employer, insurer, or other entity that is subject to the utilization review process to disclose the payment methodology for each person who is involved in the process of reviewing, approving, modifying, delaying, or denying requests by physicians for authorization prior to, retrospectively to, or concurrently with the provision of medical treatment services to injured workers by providing this information to employees, physicians, and the public upon request.

These proposed changes may impose new requirements on employers. We will be monitoring the progress of these measures through the upcoming committee hearings and floor debates, and will keep you updated on these developments.

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