

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. It is our intent to offer the Legislative Update weekly during the 2009 Arizona State Legislature session. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and action taking place at the Legislature. We know that many of you want to be involved in helping to shape the future of Arizona but are unable to be in attendance at every hearing or meeting that addresses aging issues. The information provided is intended to help you form your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts to help ensure your perspective and voice are heard. Please note the Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature. We thank you for your interest!

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

What a difference a week can make as we witnessed the change of executive leadership at both the national and state level in the last few days.

To access the text of President Obama's inaugural address:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/inaugural-address/>

Here is a link to Governor Jan Brewer's inaugural address:

http://azgovernor.gov/documents/NR_012109_Inaugural_Address.pdf

You can read more about Governor Brewer at:

<http://www.governor.state.az.us/>

At the end of the first twelve days of the 2009 Arizona Legislative Session, 588 bills have been posted. Several of these will be of interest to Arizona seniors and will be tracked by the Council and appear on the Legislative Update web page. **Please be advised that the presence of a bill on the Council's web page does not represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill.** It *does* mean that the bill topic is something that is likely to be of interest to or have an impact on Arizona seniors so the Council is tracking the bill's progress.

STATE LEGISLATION:

Visit the links below to view the Council's web pages and the list of bills the Council is tracking.

FULL LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=364&listid=13720>

Once all bills have been filed, we will establish the Council's **SHORT** list – those bills of particular focus as they affect health and safety of older adults.

Note: The website link(s) above provide you with the current status and upcoming hearing information about the bills being tracked by the Council and are available and updated on an ongoing basis, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We will add new bills to the website on a weekly basis until all bills have been posted, but the updated status of any particular bill is available throughout the week using the links below. If you are watching a bill that has a hearing on Tuesday afternoon, you should be able to see the results of that hearing by Wednesday morning.

Information about bill status, hearing, etc. is a purchased service provided by the Arizona Capitol Times.

Contact Your Policymakers: If you have a particular perspective about anything in a piece of legislation that is being considered, you may voice your thoughts by contact the:

- Governor's Office of Constituent Services at **602-542-4331** or **toll-free at 800-253-0883**.
- Or you may contact the legislator from your area. If you do not know how to reach your local legislator, start at this page on the Legislature's website and follow the instructions provided at both the Senate and House Member links.

Here is your link to the Arizona State Legislature: <http://www.azleg.gov/>

FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

H.R. 271

Title: To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the standard charitable mileage rate for delivery of meals to elderly, disabled, frail and at risk individuals.

Sponsor: Rep Robert E. Latta (R-OH-5)

Bill was introduced on 1/7/09

Latest action: 1/7/2009 – referred to House Committee on Ways and Means.

Be sure to watch this section for future in-depth updates on federal legislation!

In the meantime, we thought you might also be interested to see the Congressional Budget Office's proposed budget options on health care at the link provided below:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/12-18-HealthOptions.pdf>

Contact Your Congressional Member: If you are interested in Congressional bills or wish to share your thoughts or concerns with your federal representatives, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House or <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the Senate.

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

WHAT: Beatitudes Center DOAR – *Let's Talk: Generations Making Decisions Together*

WHEN: February 7, 2009 8:30 a.m. – 3:15 p.m. First Christian Church, 6750 N. 7th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ

For more information and to register:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/GenerationsMakingDecisionsTogether.pdf>

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration, you can do so by sending an email with the description (as shown above) to: gaca@az.gov.

Note: The Governor's Advisory Council on Aging's website is in the process of being updated.

Be sure to visit the **Governor's Office on Aging** website at: www.azgovernor.gov/aging.

Thank you and have a great week!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

Welcome to the Legislative Update for February 6, 2009

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. It is our intent to offer the Legislative Update weekly during the 2009 session of the Arizona State Legislature. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and action taking place at the Legislature. The information provided is intended to help you form your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts to help ensure your perspective and voice are heard. *Please note the Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* We thank you for your interest!

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

With the signing of the six Senate bills by the Governor last Saturday, the Fiscal Year 2009 budget deficit was addressed through a range of actions. Thanks to advocacy by Governor Brewer on behalf of aging and community services, the impact to such services appears to be less than originally proposed. Many state agencies, however, are still trying to determine the full effect of mandatory cuts and transfer of funds in FY 2009.

To view a summary of the Senate bills, go to the Council's Special Session web report:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=381&listid=14846&print=true>

To see the Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Plan with Floor Amendments visit:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/FY09BudgetPlanwithFloorAmendment.pdf>

Fiscal Year 2010 budget discussions are underway and based on the JLBC Monthly Fiscal Highlights, the deficit continues to grow. A link to the JLBC January 2009 report is available here: <http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/mfh-jan-09.pdf>

You can learn more about scheduled budget discussion through a variety of the links located on the Arizona State Legislature website: <http://www.azleg.gov/>. A few of those sources include the floor calendars, committee agendas and press releases from both the Senate and the House.

At the end of day 26 of the 2009 Arizona Legislative Session, 1001 bills have been posted along with 86 memorials and resolutions. Several of these will be of interest to Arizona seniors and will be tracked by the Council and appear on the Legislative Update web page. Please be advised that the presence of a bill on the Council's web page *does not* represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill. It *does* mean that the bill topic is something that is likely to be of interest to or have an impact on Arizona seniors so the Council is tracking the bill's progress.

STATE LEGISLATION:

Visit the link below to view the Councils web page and the list of bills the Council is tracking.

FULL LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=364&listid=13720&print=true>

Once all bills have been filed, we will establish the Councils SHORT list - those bills of particular focus that may affect health and safety of older adults. Using primarily the SHORT list, we will provide weekly summaries that highlight one or more bills.

Note: The website link above provides you with the current status and upcoming hearing information about the bills being tracked by the Council and is available and updated on an ongoing basis, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We will add new bills to the website on a weekly basis until all bills have been posted, but the updated status of any particular bill is available throughout the week using the link. *Note: Information about bill status, hearings, etc. is a purchased service provided by the Arizona Capitol Times.*

Contact Your Policymakers: If you have a particular perspective about anything in a piece of legislation that is being considered, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

Governors Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-4331 or toll-free at 800-253-0883 .

Or you may contact the legislator from your area. If you do not know how to reach your local legislator, start at the home page on the Legislature's website and follow the instructions provided at both the Senate and House Member links.

Arizona State Legislature website: <http://www.azleg.gov/>

FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

H.R. 468

Retooling the Health Care Workforce for an Aging America Act of 2009

Retooling the Health Care Workforce for an Aging America Act of 2009 was introduced on January 13, 2009 by Rep Janice D. Schakowsky (D-IL-9).

The legislation would amend the Public Health Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to expand training for health professional in the fields of geriatrics, long-term care, and chronic care management.

The Act:

- Requires an analysis of the health and long-term care workforce.
- Amends the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to provide for information to adults and dislocated workers about health care and long-term care occupations.

- Provides for information to veterans about training, internship, and employment opportunities in geriatrics, gerontology, and long-term care.
- Amends the Older Americans Act of 1965 to require the Assistant Secretary of Aging to:
 1. develop family caregiver training materials.
 2. provide for the establishment and operation of a National Resource Center on volunteers, students, and seniors to promote partnerships between entities in the aging network and institutions of higher education and secondary schools, and to encourage projects that involve underserved communities.
- Requires the Secretary to:
 1. provide for the development of core training competencies for personal or home care aides and additional training content for nurses aides and home health aides
 2. establish a panel of long-term care workforce experts.
- Provides for the development of information and referral protocols for family caregivers of Medicare beneficiaries.
- Amends title XIX (Medicaid) of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of assessments of family caregiver support needs.
- Provides for the studies on:
 1. the mental health workforce
 2. the aging network's capacity to meet current and future needs
 3. retention and tenure of nurse aides and home health aides
 4. spending by the National Institute of Health (NIH) on conditions and illnesses that disproportionately impact the health of older individuals

The bill, introduced in the House, was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on Education and Labor.

Stimulus Package: More debate continues at the federal level as attempts are being made to come to an agreement on the proposed package. You can access HR1: The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 at this link provided: <http://thomas.loc.gov/>.

Contact Your Congressional Member: If you are interested in Congressional bills or wish to share your thoughts or concerns with your federal representatives, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House or <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the Senate.

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration, you can do so by sending an email with the description to: gaca@az.gov.

Be sure to visit the Governor's Office on Aging website at: www.azgovernor.gov/aging .

Thank you and have a great week!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

Welcome to the Legislative Update for February 12, 2009

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. It is our intent to offer the Legislative Update weekly during the 2009 session of the Arizona State Legislature. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and action taking place at the Legislature. The information provided is intended to help you form your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts to help ensure your perspective and voice are heard. *Please note the Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* We thank you for your interest!

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

As the full impact of Fiscal Year 2009 budget cuts to state agencies and services is still being fully realized or determined, legislative discussions are shifting to Fiscal Year 2010. Members of both parties in the House announced budget hearings. To learn more about the location of these hearings, visit the press release link at the Arizona State Legislature website: <http://www.azleg.gov/PressReleases.asp>

To review the Joint Legislative Budget Committee's FY 2009 Budget Revisions Plan as Enacted, go to: <http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/FY09enactedbudget.pdf>.

The JLBC's listing of potential federal assistance (as of 2/10/09) from the federal stimulus package is provided at:
<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/potentialfederalassistance.pdf>.

February 2nd marked the last day for bill introduction in the Senate without special permission and February 9th was the last day by rule for bill introduction in the House without special permission. At the end of 32 days of the 2009 Arizona Legislative Regular Session, 1,098 bills have been posted along with 93 memorials and resolutions. Several of these will be of interest to Arizona seniors and will be tracked by the Council and appear on the Legislative Update web page. Please be advised that the presence of a bill on the Council's web page does not represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill. It *does* mean that the bill topic is something that is likely to be of interest to or have an impact on Arizona seniors so the Council is tracking the bill's progress.

STATE LEGISLATION:

Visit the link below to view the Council's web page and the list of bills the Council is tracking.

FULL LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=364&listid=13720&print=true>

Once all bills have been filed and reviewed, we will establish the Council's SHORT list – those bills of particular focus as they affect health and safety of older adults.

Note: The website FULL LIST link above provides you with the current status and upcoming hearing information about the bills being tracked by the Council and is available and updated on an ongoing basis, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We are adding new bills to the website on a weekly basis, but the updated status of any particular bill is available throughout the week using the link. *Information about bill status, hearing, etc. is a purchased service provided by the Arizona Capitol Times.*

Contact Your Policymakers: If you have a particular perspective about anything in a piece of legislation that is being considered, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

- Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-4331 or toll-free at 800-253-0883.

- Or you may contact the legislator from your area. If you do not know how to reach your local legislator, start at the home page on the Legislature's website and follow the instructions provided at both the Senate and House Member links.

Arizona State Legislature website: <http://www.azleg.gov/>

FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

Negotiations on the federal stimulus legislation moved quickly this week. Yesterday, the Senate indicated an agreement on a \$789 billion stimulus package; final votes in the House and Senate are anticipated soon. The package includes an array of measures including tax cuts, one-time payments to people receiving Social Security benefits, funding of transportation and other projects. You can find HR1: The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 at the top of the home page at this link: <http://thomas.loc.gov/>. (Be sure to see the anticipated assistance to Arizona at the JLBC link listed under the General Overview.)

Contact Your Congressional Member: If you are interested in Congressional bills or wish to share your thoughts or concerns with your federal representatives, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House or <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the Senate.

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

WHAT: Arizona Caregiver Coalition Spring 2009 Meeting

WHEN: Thursday, March 19, 2009, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m., Flinn Foundation, 1802 N. Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ

For more information visit the Arizona Caregiver Coalition website:

www.azcaregiver.org

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration, you can do so by sending an email with the description (as shown above) to:

gaca@az.gov

Be sure to visit the Governor's Office on Aging website

at: www.azgovernor.gov/aging

We apologize for the abbreviated version of the newsletter this week and look forward to providing more indepth information soon! Thank you and have a great weekend!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

Welcome to the Legislative Update for February 26, 2009

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. It is our intent to offer the Legislative Update weekly during the 2009 session of the Arizona State Legislature. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and action taking place at the Legislature. The information provided is intended to help you form your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts to help ensure your perspective and voice are heard. *Please note the Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* We thank you for your interest!

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

On-going budget discussions related to both Fiscal Years 2009 and 2010 continue as lawmakers and state agencies grapple with difficult decisions required to balance the budgets. Some of the continuing discussion is reflected in the Senate and House press releases posted on the Arizona State Legislature website. <http://www.azleg.gov/PressReleases.asp>

You can keep up with various capitol events and rallies by viewing the calendar posted at:
<http://www.azleg.gov/aspwebcalendar/calendar.asp>

Senate and House committee agendas are found at:
<http://www.azleg.gov/CommitteeAgendas.asp?Body=H&ShowAll=OFF>

Both the Senate and House are adjourned until Monday, March 2nd, but tomorrow, February 27th marks the last day by leadership order for House committees to consider House bills. At the end of day 46 of the 2009 Arizona Legislative Session, 1098 bills have been posted along with 93 memorials and resolutions. Please be advised that the presence of a bill on the Council's web page *does not* represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill. It *does* mean that the bill topic is something that is likely to be of interest to or have an impact on Arizona seniors so the Council is tracking the bill's progress.

STATE LEGISLATION:

Visit the link below to view the Council's web page and the list of bills the Council is tracking.

FULL LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=364&listid=13720&print=true>

Highlights of legislative actions taken on bills the Council is tracking include:

H2344: Vulnerable Adults: Financial Exploitation - from House Judiciary Committee with amendment #4099 on 2/26/09.

Up-coming hearings for bills on the Council's FULL List include:

H2513: Reverse Mortgages - Hearing: House Banking & Insurance 3/2/09 2:00 p.m., House Rm. 5.

H2616: Living Wills; Health Care Directives - Hearing: House Health & Human Services 3/4/09 8:00 a.m. House Room 4

H2622: Dependent Children; Relatives; Disclosure - Hearing: House Health & Human Services 3/4/09 8:00 a.m. House Rm. 4

H2629: License Plate Obstruction; Wheelchair Holders - Hearing: House Transportation and Infrastructure 3/5/09 9:00 a.m. House Rm. 3.

Be sure to check the Arizona State Legislature website for agendas and time changes and updates for Senate, House and Joint Legislative Budget committee agendas at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/CommitteeAgendas.asp?Body=H&ShowAll=OFF>

Once we have finished reviewing all the bills that are posted, we will establish the Council's SHORT list - those bills of particular focus as they affect health and safety of older adults.

Note: The website FULL LIST link above provides you with the current status and upcoming hearing information about the bills being tracked by the Council and is available and updated on an ongoing basis, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We are adding new bills to the website on a weekly basis, but the updated status of any particular bill is available throughout the week using the link. *Information about bill status, hearing, etc. is a purchased service provided by the Arizona Capitol Times.*

Contact Your Policymakers: If you have a particular perspective about anything in a piece of legislation that is being considered, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-4331 or toll-free at 800-253-0883.

Or you may contact the legislator from your area. If you do not know how to reach your local legislator, start at the homepage on the Legislature's website and follow the instructions provided at both the Senate and House Member links.

Arizona State Legislature website: <http://www.azleg.gov/>

FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

H.R. 667

Heroes at Home Act

The Heroes at Home Act of 2009 was introduced by Representative John T. Salazar (D-CO-3) on January 23, 2009.

The intent of the bill is to improve the diagnosis and treatment of traumatic brain injury (TBI) in members and former members of the Armed Forces, to review and expand telehealth and telemental health programs of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

The bill directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a Program on Training and Certification of Family Caregiver Personal Care Attendants and:

- In collaboration with the Secretary of Defense, develop curricula for the training and certification of family caregivers of veterans and members of the Armed Forces with TBI as personal care attendants of such veterans and members.
- Locate programs in each of the medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Develop curricula that includes applicable standards and protocols utilized by certification programs of national brain injury care specialist organizations and utilize and expand upon training curricula developed pursuant to section 744 (b) of the John Warner National Defense Authorization act for Fiscal Year 2007.

In addition, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs will:

- Determine the eligibility of a family member of a veteran or member of the Armed Forces for participation in the program with determination made based on clinical needs of the veteran or member of the Armed Forces as determined by the physician of such veteran or member. A family caregiver of a veteran or member of the Armed Forces who receives certification as a personal care attendant will be eligible for compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for care provided to veteran or member.

Costs of Training:

- Any costs of training provided under the program for family members of veterans will be borne by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.
- The Secretary of Defense will reimburse the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for any costs of training provided under the program for family members of members of the Armed Forces. Amounts for such reimbursement will be derived from amounts available for Defense Health Programs for the TRICARE program.
- Nothing will be construed to require or permit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to deny reimbursement for health care services provided to a veteran with a brain injury to a personal care attendant who is not a family member of such veteran.

Outreach and Public Awareness:

- The Secretary of Veterans Affairs will conduct comprehensive outreach to enhance the awareness of veterans and the general public about the symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder and TBI and the services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to veterans with such symptoms.
- The Secretary of Veterans Affairs will make available to non-Department of Veterans Affairs health practitioners the best practices developed by the Department for the treatment of traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Telehealth and Telemental Health Services:

- The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs will jointly establish a demonstration project to assess the feasibility and advisability of using telehealth technology to assess cognitive function of members and former members who have sustained head trauma, in order to improve the diagnosis and treatment of TBI.
- The Secretary of Defense and Secretary of Veterans Affairs will carry out the demonstration project required and will give priority to locations that would provide services in a rural area.
- The demonstration project requirements include a report to Congress.

The bill was referred to the House Sub Committee on Military Personnel.

Good News for social security recipients! As part of the recently signed federal stimulus package, individuals who get Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security benefits will receive a one-time payment of \$250 to. No application is required. For more information, visit:
<http://www.socialsecurity.gov/payment/>

To view the **Congressional Summary** of the **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009**, go to: <http://finance.senate.gov/press/Bpress/2009press/prb021209.pdf>

Contact Your Congressional Member: If you are interested in Congressional bills or wish to share your thoughts or concerns with your federal representatives, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House or <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the Senate.

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

Senior Action Day - April 1st

As you may recall, in years past the Council on Aging has held events throughout the state or one large event on the Capitol lawn with vendors, food, and an array of activities. **Due to the current economic situation and to be as time and cost efficient as possible, the Council on Aging has decided to restructure and hold one modified event at the Executive Tower building in Phoenix. YOU CAN STILL MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD! We're encouraging older Arizonans and aging advocates to provide your input about important issues via mail, email or phone to share with legislators on that day.**

Mail your input to us at:

_ The Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

1700 W. Washington Street, Suite 240

Phoenix, AZ 85007

OR - **Email us** at: gaca@az.gov

OR - **Call us** at 602-542-4710.

Visit our link for more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/2009SeniorActionDayFlier.pdf>

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration, you can do so by sending an email with the description to: gaca@az.gov.

Be sure to visit the Governor's Office on Aging website at: www.azgovernor.gov/aging .

Thank you and have a great week!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging _

If you wish to be REMOVED from or know someone who would like to be ADDED to the Update, please send an email to: gaca@az.gov and ask to be unsubscribed or subscribed to the **Legislative Update**.

Welcome to the Legislative Update for March 6, 2009

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. It is our intent to offer the Legislative Update weekly during the 2009 session of the Arizona State Legislature. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and action taking place at the Legislature. The information provided is intended to help you form your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts to help ensure your perspective and voice are heard. *Please note the Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* We thank you for your interest!

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

On Wednesday of this week, Governor Brewer addressed a joint session of the 49th Arizona State Legislature and outlined a 5-point long-term recovery plan in response to the states fiscal situation. The Governor called on members of the House and Senate, Republicans and Democrats, to set aside their differences and "...place workers, employers, families, retirees, students, and young children ahead of politics."

To view a copy of the Governor's remarks to the joint session, go to:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/documents/2009_BuildingABetterAZ.pdf

An outline of the Governor's 5-point plan is provided at:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/documents/2009_BuildingABetterAZ-Outline.pdf

The Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) state debt report can be found at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/statedebt0309.pdf>

The updated JLBC projection of federal stimulus funding to Arizona is located at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/arrasummary030409.pdf>

Next Friday, March 13th marks the last day by leadership order for Senate committees to hear Senate bills. At the end of day 54 of the 2009 Arizona Legislative Session, 1098 bills are posted along with 93 memorials and resolutions. Please be advised that the presence of a bill on the Council's web page *does not* represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill. It *does* mean that the bill topic is something that is likely to be of interest to or have an impact on Arizona seniors so the Council is tracking the bill's progress.

STATE LEGISLATION:

Visit the link below to view the Council's web page and the list of bills the Council is tracking.

FULL LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=364&listid=13720&print=true>

Highlights of legislative actions taken on bills the Council is tracking include:

H2283: Certified Nursing Assistants; Pilot Program House Committee of the Whole approved with amendment #4036 on 3/5/09.

HB 2071: Photo radar; defensive driving school proposed strike everything amendment to this bill creates the Small Installment Loan Act held in House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure 3/5/09.

Up-coming hearings for bills on the Councils FULL List include:

H2513: Reverse Mortgages Hearing: House Rules 3/9/09 1:00 p.m., House Rm. 4.

Be sure to check the Arizona State Legislature website for agendas and time changes and updates for Senate, House and Joint Legislative Budget committee agendas at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/CommitteeAgendas.asp?Body=H&ShowAll=OFF>

Once we have finished reviewing all the bills that are posted, we will establish the Councils SHORT list those bills of particular focus as they affect health and safety of older adults.

Note: The website FULL LIST link above provides you with the current status and upcoming hearing information about the bills being tracked by the Council and is available and updated on an ongoing basis, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We are adding new bills to the website on a weekly basis, but the updated status of any particular bill is available throughout the week using the link. *Information about bill status, hearing, etc. is a purchased service provided by the Arizona Capitol Times.*

Contact Your Policymakers: If you have a particular perspective about anything in a piece of legislation that is being considered, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-4331 or toll-free at 800-253- 0883.

Or you may contact the legislator from your area. If you need help in reaching your local legislator, start at the homepage on the Legislature's website and follow the instructions provided at both the Senate and House Member links.

Arizona State Legislature website: <http://www.azleg.gov/>

FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

H.R.824

Family and Medical Leave Enhancement Act of 2009

H.R.824 was introduced on February 3, 2009, by Representative Carolyn B. Maloney [NY-14]. There are ten (10) co-sponsors on this bill - Representative Tammy Baldwin [WI-2], Representative Timothy H. Bishop [NY-1], Representative Corrine Brown [FL-3], Representative Keith Ellison [MN-5], Representative Bob Filner [CA-51], Representative Barney Frank [MA-4], Representative James P. McGovern [MA-3], Representative George Miller [CA-7], Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton [DC], Representative Lynn Woolsey [CA-6].

The purpose of H.R. 824 or Family and Medical Leave Enhancement Act of 2009 is to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 and title 5, United States Code, in order to allow employees to take, as additional leave, parental involvement leave to participate in or attend their children's and grandchildren's educational and extracurricular activities, and to clarify that leave may be taken for routine family medical needs and to assist elderly relatives and for other purposes.

The bill outlines that an eligible employee shall be entitled to leave to participate in or attend an activity that is sponsored by a school or community organization and relates to a program of the school or organization that is attended by a son or daughter or a grandchild of the employee or meet routine family medical care needs, including for medical and dental appointments of the employee or a son, daughter, spouse, or grandchild of the employee, or to attend to the care needs of elderly individuals who are related to the eligible employee, including visits to nursing homes and group homes. The bill limits the time taken to an eligible employee is entitled to not to exceed 4 hours of leave under this paragraph during any 30-day period and is not to exceed 24 hours of leave under during any 12-month period.

The last major legislative action to take place on H.R.824 was on February 3, 2009, when it was referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor, the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, and House Administration.

Contact Your Congressional Member: If you are interested in Congressional bills or wish to share your thoughts or concerns with your federal representatives, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House or <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the Senate.

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

Senior Action Day April 1st

As you may recall, in years past the Council on Aging has held events throughout the state or one large event on the Capitol lawn with vendors, food, and an array of activities. **Due to the current economic situation and to be as time and cost efficient as possible, the Council on Aging has decided to restructure and hold one modified event at the Executive Tower building in Phoenix. YOU CAN STILL MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD! We're encouraging older Arizonans and aging advocates to provide your input about important issues via mail, email or phone to share with legislators on that day.**

Mail your input to us at:

The Governors Advisory Council on Aging

1700 W. Washington Street, Suite 240

Phoenix, AZ 85007

OR - Email us at: gaca@az.gov

OR - Call us at 602-542-4710.

Visit our link for more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/2009SeniorActionDayFlier.pdf>

What: With Art in Mind: an enriching experience for people with dementia and their care partners, Banner Alzheimer's Institute

When: March 20, 2009, 12:30 4:00 p.m., Phoenix Art Museum.

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/WithArtinMind.pdf>

What: Why Should I Care About Elder Abuse? Arts Contest sponsored by the Attorney General's Office in partnership with Free Arts of Arizona

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/ElderContestEntryForm.pdf>

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/ElderAbuseAwarenessContest.pdf>

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/ElderContestInfoFlier.pdf>

What: A. T. Still University's Lecture on Aging featuring Dorothy Baker, Ph.D., R. N.

From the halls of ivy to the kitchen table: Moving evidence-based fall prevention into practice (Seating is limited)

When: April 3, 2009, 1:00 p.m. Saguaro A & B Classrooms (live), 5850 E. Still Circle, Mesa, Arizona 85206

For more information: call 660-626-2432

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/LectureAgingFlyer09.pdf>

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration, you can do so by sending an email with the description to: gaca@az.gov.

Visit the Governor's Office on Aging website at: www.azgovernor.gov/aging .

Thank you and have a great week!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

Welcome to the Legislative Update for March 12, 2009

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. It is our intent to offer the Legislative Update weekly during the 2009 session of the Arizona State Legislature. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and action taking place at the Legislature. The information provided is intended to help you form your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts to help ensure your perspective and voice are heard.

Please note the Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature. We thank you for your interest!

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

Governor Brewer visited various communities throughout the state this week as outreach to greater Arizona and to present her 5-Point Plan for Building a Better Arizona. Look for more information and updates under *Latest News* posted at the Governor's Website:

<http://www.governor.state.az.us/>

In an effort to prepare for appropriation of federal monies for childcare, graduate medical assistance and disproportionate share hospital funding as requested by the Governor's Office of Strategic Planning and Budget, a special joint House and Senate Appropriations committee meeting was scheduled today to review SB1184: 2008-2009; Appropriations; Budget Revisions and HB 2051: 2008-2009 Appropriations; Budget Revisions.

These bills have been added to the Council's **FULL LIST** and can be accessed at that link shown later in the newsletter.

View the Joint Legislative Budget Committee's Budget Revisions at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/FY2009Revisions-March.pdf>

To view the JLBC 3/10/09 appropriations hearing presentation, go to:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/appropspresentations.pdf>

Tomorrow, March 13th marks the last day by leadership order for Senate committees to hear Senate bills. April 10th is the last day by leadership order for House committees to consider Senate bills and Senate committees to hear House bills. At the end of day 59 of the 2009 Arizona Legislative Session, 1098 bills are posted along with 93 memorials and resolutions. Please be advised that the presence of a bill on the Council's web page *does not* represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill. It *does* mean that the bill topic is something that is likely to be of interest to or have an impact on Arizona seniors so the Council is tracking the bill's progress.

STATE LEGISLATION:

Visit the link below to view the Council's web page and the list of bills the Council is tracking.

FULL LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=364&listid=13720&print=true>

Highlights of legislative actions taken on bills the Council is tracking include:

H2513: Reverse Mortgages House consent calendar 3/12/09.

Be sure to check the Arizona State Legislature website for agendas and time changes and updates for Senate, House and Joint Legislative Budget committee agendas at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/CommitteeAgendas.asp?Body=H&ShowAll=OFF>

Once we have finished reviewing all the bills that are posted this session, we will establish the Council's SHORT list those bills of particular focus as they affect health and safety of older adults.

Note: The website FULL LIST link above provides you with the current status and upcoming hearing information about the bills being tracked by the Council and is available and updated on an ongoing basis, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We are adding new bills to the website on a weekly basis, but the updated status of any particular bill is available throughout the week using the link. *Information about bill status, hearing, etc. is a purchased service provided by the Arizona Capitol Times.*

Contact Your Policymakers: If you have a particular perspective about anything in a piece of legislation that is being considered, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

Governors Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-4331 or toll-free at 800-253-0883

Or you may contact the legislator from your area. If you do not know how to reach your local legislator, start at the homepage under *How do I find My Legislators* or follow the instructions provided at both the Senate and House Member links at the website.

Arizona State Legislature website: **<http://www.azleg.gov/>**

FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

On Tuesday, the Senate voted to approve the fiscal year 2009 omnibus spending bill, H.R. 1105 that covers nine appropriations bills not enacted last year. Based on preliminary information from the American Public Human Services Association, the following are highlights for aging-related human service programs.

Health

A \$45 million increase to help seniors understand what Medicare benefits are available to them, a \$6 million increase from 2008.

\$75 million for a new initiative to provide start-up grants to states that are ready with plans to expand health care coverage to targeted groups.

Nutrition

The measure provides \$53.969 billion for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, including a \$3 billion reserve fund.

A \$1.2 billion increase from 2008 in the Women, Infants, and Children program to \$6.86 billion to support the expected increase of 400,000 participants from 2008.

\$230.8 million for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program and other nutrition programs.

Selected other programs

\$1.7 billion for the Social Services Block Grant to help states with child care, protective services, help for the disabled, adoption, counseling, transportation, foster care, and substance abuse.

\$700 million to the Community Services Block Grant, which supports safety net services at the community level for 16 million individuals, a \$46 million increase from 2008.

\$2.8 billion for state unemployment insurance operations, an increase of \$260 million above 2008.

\$1.5 billion to help train and place 360,000 dislocated workers who have lost their jobs during the economic crisis, a \$2 million increase from 2008.

The Department of Health and Human Services has launched a new Office of Recovery Act Coordination. To read more about the office and learn how to track the distribution of \$3 billion in recovery act funds go to:

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2009pres/03/20090311a.html>

Contact Your Congressional Member: If you are interested in Congressional bills or wish to share your thoughts or concerns with your federal representatives, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House or <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the Senate.

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

Senior Action Day April 1st

As you may recall, in years past the Council on Aging has held events throughout the state or one large event on the Capitol lawn with vendors, food, and an array of activities. **Due to the current economic situation and to be as time and cost efficient as possible, the Council on Aging has decided to restructure and hold one modified event at the Executive Tower building in Phoenix. YOU CAN STILL MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!**

Were encouraging older Arizonans and aging advocates to provide your input about important issues via mail, email or phone to share with legislators on that day.

Mail your input to us at:

The Governors Advisory Council on Aging

1700 W. Washington Street, Suite 240

Phoenix, AZ 85007

OR - Email us at: gaca@az.gov

OR - Call us at 602-542-4710.

Visit our link for more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/2009SeniorActionDayFlier.pdf>

What: With Art in Mind: an enriching experience for people with dementia and their care partners, Banner Alzheimer's Institute

When: March 20, 2009, 12:30 4:00 p.m., Phoenix Art Museum.

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/WithArtinMind.pdf>

What: Why Should I Care About Elder Abuse? Arts Contest sponsored by the Attorney Generals Office in partnership with Free Arts of Arizona

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/ElderContestEntryForm.pdf>

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/ElderAbuseAwarenessContest.pdf>

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/ElderContestInfoFlier.pdf>

What: Project SEARCH Information Night with Speaker Erin Riehle re: best practice model employment program for young adults with developmental disabilities

When: Wednesday, March 18, 2009, 5:30 7:30 p.m. Northwest Center at Mansfield Park, 2160 N. 6th Avenue, Tucson

For more information visit: http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1102502924884&e=001H2I6mRNLsEx1NkAwK2F9FYOwey4sqDqffixr8Z-tpqMiitrZaeOFFjdMqzkz0SDaM67QaDFNdZwZTRdT7yMpWQIokzaDC2wk_Mu6-IctyLsWK2WauOPxGO4fbZbgBrkmDfzWf4rK0_8H6RDwK2KDYW2mtkaQQnA9SAaY2el7EEUTf-2IZXZ0bYh-80fH3-s_joGuFo6ZfUaVVtDC2qZUUQ== .

What: A. T. Still University's Lecture on Aging featuring Dorothy Baker, Ph.D., R. N.

From the halls of ivy to the kitchen table: Moving evidence-based fall prevention into practice

When: April 3, 2009, 1:00 p.m. Saguaro A & B Classrooms (live), 5850 E. Still Circle, Mesa, Arizona 85206

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration, you can do so by sending an email with the description to: gaca@az.gov.

Visit the Governor's Office on Aging website at: www.azgovernor.gov/aging .

Thank you and have a great week!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

Welcome to the Legislative Update for March 20, 2009

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. It is our intent to offer the Legislative Update weekly during the 2009 session of the Arizona State Legislature. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and action taking place at the Legislature. The information provided is intended to help you form your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts to help ensure your perspective and voice are heard. *Please note the Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* We thank you for your interest!

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

Governor Brewer recently launched a website dedicated to the tracking of federal stimulus dollars coming from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) to Arizona.

To view the press release announcing the website, go to:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/dms/upload/NR_031809_%20Federal%20Stimulus%20Web%20Site.pdf

To view the website, visit: <http://az.gov/recovery/>

The Joint Legislative Budget Committee 3/18/09 ARRA summary update is provided at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/arrasummary031809.pdf>

To view the JLBC most recent appropriations hearing presentation, go to:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/appropspresentations.pdf>

With the legislative focus pointed at our state's current and projected budget deficits, bills are not moving forward *as usual* at this point in the legislative session. At the end of day 68 of the 2009 Arizona Legislative Session, 1099 bills are posted and 1 has been signed. 94 memorials and resolutions have been posted as well. Please be advised that the presence of a bill on the Council's web page *does not* represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill. It *does* mean that the bill topic is something that is likely to be of

interest to or have an impact on Arizona seniors so the Council is tracking the bill's progress.

STATE LEGISLATION:

Visit the link below to view the Council's web page and the list of bills the Council is tracking.

FULL LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=364&listid=13720&print=true>

Highlights of legislative actions taken on bills the Council is tracking include:

H2091: Charitable Organizations; Solicitations; Disclosure House Committee of the Whole approved with Floor Amendment #4190 on 3/18.

Reminder: Be sure to check the Arizona State Legislature website for Senate, House and Joint Legislative Budget committee agendas and updates to those agendas at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/CommitteeAgendas.asp?Body=H&ShowAll=OFF>

The website FULL List link provides you with the current status and upcoming hearing information about the bills being tracked by the Council and is available and updated on an ongoing basis, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. *Information about bill status, hearing, etc. is a purchased service provided by the Arizona Capitol Times.*

Contact Your Policymakers: If you have a particular perspective about anything in a piece of legislation that is being considered, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-4331 or toll-free at 800-253-0883

Or you may contact the legislator from your area. If you do not know how to reach your local legislator, start at the homepage under *How do I find My Legislators* or follow the instructions provided at both the Senate and House Member links at the website.

Arizona State Legislature website: <http://www.azleg.gov/>

FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

The following is a detailed update to the report provided last week on H.R. 1105

H.R. 1105

2009 Omnibus Budget Act

The 2009 Omnibus Budget Act was introduced on February 23, 2009 by Representative David Obey (D-WI-7).

The purpose of the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009 - Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2009, is to make appropriations for FY2009 for specified: (1) agricultural programs; (2) conservation programs; (3) rural development programs; (4) domestic food programs; (5) foreign assistance and related programs; and (6) related agency and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) purposes. The appropriations fund the remainder of the 2009 federal fiscal year (FY) which ends September 30, 2009.

HR 1105 passed the Senate Tuesday, March 10 without changes and was signed by President Obama on Wednesday, March 11.

To read the actual bill text along with summaries of the provisions please follow the link <http://appropriations.house.gov/> to the U.S. House of Representatives Appropriations website or you may view the bill and other information related to its passage at <http://www.thomas.gov/> and search for bill number HR 1105.

To view the details for the FY 09 appropriations, open this link provided below:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/HR1105detail.pdf>

The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services announcements regarding use of ARRA funding can be found at: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/> .

Contact Your Congressional Member: If you are interested in Congressional bills or wish to share your thoughts or concerns with your federal representatives, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House or <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the Senate.

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

Senior Action Day April 1st

NOTE: This year's Council on Aging event includes **an emphasis on seniors and advocates meeting one-on-one with legislators, and legislators have been alerted that you will be calling to set up appointments at their offices between 12:30 2:30 p.m. on April 1st**. If you're unable to attend that day, you can still call your Senator or Representative at any time. Contact information can be found at the links provided below.

How do I find My Legislators:

<http://www.azleg.gov/alisStaticPages/HowToContactMember.asp>

Senate Members: <http://www.azleg.gov/MemberRoster.asp?Body=S>

House Members: <http://www.azleg.gov/memberRoster.asp?Body=H>

UNABLE TO ATTEND?? YOU CAN STILL MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!
We are encouraging older Arizonans and aging advocates to provide input about important issues via mail, email or phone to share with legislators.

Mail your input to us at:

The Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

1700 W. Washington Street, Suite 240

Phoenix, AZ 85007

OR - Email us at: gaca@az.gov

OR - Call us at 602-542-4710.

See our Senior Action Day flyer for more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/2009SeniorActionDayFlyer.pdf>

What: Time Out Workshop; Practical Solutions for Real Life Solutions

When: May 20, 2009, 8:00 a.m. 4:30 p.m., Scottsdale Civic Center Library, 3839 North Drinkwater Blvd., Scottsdale, AZ 85251

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/TimeOutFlyerMay2009.pdf>

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration, you can do so by sending an email with the description to: gaca@az.gov.

Visit the Governor's Office on Aging website at:

www.azgovernor.gov/aging .

Thank you and have a great week!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

Welcome to the Legislative Update for March 27, 2009

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. It is our intent to offer the Legislative Update weekly during the 2009 session of the Arizona State Legislature. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and action taking place at the Legislature. The information provided is intended to help you form your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts to help ensure your perspective and voice are heard. *Please note the Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* We thank you for your interest!

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

Budget concerns continue to take top priority this week with little action at the legislature; bills are not moving forward.

As requested by the Governor's Office of Strategic Planning and Budgeting, state agencies conducted 2010 budget reduction exercises outlining the impact of 5%, 10%, 15% and 20% reductions. Some have posted the information at their websites.

AHCCCS: <http://www.ahcccs.state.az.us/site/>

DES: <https://www.azdes.gov/ASPNew/default.asp>

At the end of day 75 of the 2009 Arizona Legislative Session, the count remains the same - 1099 bills posted, one (1) bill signed, and 94 memorials and resolutions posted. April 10th marks the last day by leadership order for House committees to consider Senate bills and Senate committees to hear House bills.

Please be advised that the presence of a bill on the Council's web report *does not* represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill. It *does* mean that the bill topic is something that is likely to be of interest to or have an impact on Arizona seniors so the Council is tracking the bill's progress.

STATE LEGISLATION:

Visit the link below to view the Council's web report and the list of bills the Council is tracking.

FULL LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=364&listid=13720&print=true>

As part of our need to cut costs, our subscription to Arizona Capitol Times includes **one** web report (as posted above) this year so we are listing those bills we have placed on a SHORT list. They are: H2344: Vulnerable Adults; Financial Exploitation, H2347: Incapacitated or Vulnerable Adults; Sentencing, H2513: Reverse Mortgages, S1014: AHCCCS; Long-Term Care; Eligibility. This list will continue to be updated and expanded.

Highlights on action taken this week on bills the Council is tracking

H2238: AHCCCS: DES; Fraud Reduction 3/24/09 from House Rules Committee.

While no hearings are scheduled on bill tracked by the Council, please note committee meetings scheduled on April 1st, Senior Action Day

<http://www.azleg.gov/CommitteeAgendas.asp?Body=S>

<http://www.azleg.gov/CommitteeAgendas.asp?Body=H>

Reminder: Be sure to check the Arizona State Legislature website for Senate, House and Joint Legislative Budget committee agendas and updates to those agendas.

The website FULL List link provides you with the current status and upcoming hearing information about the bills being tracked by the Council and is available and updated on an ongoing basis, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. *Information about bill status, hearing, etc. is a purchased service provided by the Arizona Capitol Times.*

Contact Your Policymakers: If you have a particular perspective about anything in a piece of legislation that is being considered, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-4331 or toll-free at 800-253-0883

Or you may contact the legislator from your area. If you do not know how to reach your local legislator, start at the homepage under *How do I find My Legislators* or follow the instructions provided at both the Senate and House Member links at the website.

Arizona State Legislature website: <http://www.azleg.gov/>

FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

S.631

Patient Safety and Abuse Prevention Act

The bill was introduced on March 18, 2009 by Senator Herb Kohl (D-WI). The cosponsors are Senator Evan Bayh (D-IN), Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), Senator Robert P. Casey Jr. (D-PA), Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS), Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), Senator Johnny Isakson (R-GA), Senator John F. Kerry (D-MA), Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Senator Carl Levin (D-MI), Senator Blanche L. Lincoln (D-AR), Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR). The purpose of the Patient Safety and Abuse Prevention Act is to provide for nationwide expansion of the pilot program for national and state background checks on direct patient access employees of long-term care facilities or

providers.

Senator Herb Kohl, Chairman of the Senate Special Committee on Aging, and Senator Susan Collins introduced the Patient Safety and Abuse Prevention Act to prevent those with criminal histories from working within long-term care settings by creating a comprehensive nationwide system of background checks. The legislation would expand a highly successful three-year pilot program, spearheaded by Kohl and authorized under the 2003 Medicare Modernization Act, which prevented more than 7,000 applicants with a history of substantiated abuse or a violent criminal record from working with and preying upon frail elders and individuals with disabilities in long-term care settings. Congressman Joe Sestak (D-PA) is expected to also introduce a companion bill in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The bill calls for states to establish coordinated systems that include checks against abuse and neglect registries and a state police check. It also adds a federal component to the background check process by screening applicants against the FBI's national database of criminal history records. Thousands of individuals with a history of substantiated abuse or a criminal record are hired every year.

On March 18, 2009, S.631 was referred to the Committee on Finance.

For more information on the bill, go to: <http://www.thomas.gov/>

and enter the Bill Number under Search Bill Summary & Status

Contact Your Congressional Member: If you are interested in Congressional bills or wish to share your thoughts or concerns with your federal representatives, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House or <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the Senate.

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

Senior Action Day April 1st

Sponsored by the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

We hope you are planning to participate in this year's event!

The Days Itinerary

12:30 2:30 p.m. Seniors and advocates meet with legislators in pre-arranged appointments *at the legislator's offices* to share input directly in one-to-one meetings.

3:00 4:00 p.m. Program in the Second Floor Conference Room of the Executive Tower building.

4:00 5:00 p.m. Public Forum Second Floor Conference Room of the Executive Tower.

We're pleased to hear from legislators that they are being contacted by their constituents who have scheduled one-to-one appointments with them. ***Please remember should you not be able to be at the Capitol on April 1st, you can still call or email your Senator or Representative at any time.*** Contact information can be found at the links provided below.

How do I find My Legislators:

<http://www.azleg.gov/alisStaticPages/HowToContactMember.asp>

Senate Members: <http://www.azleg.gov/MemberRoster.asp?Body=S>

House Members: <http://www.azleg.gov/memberRoster.asp?Body=H>

Questions about Senior Action Day?

Email us at: gaca@az.gov

OR - Call us at **602-542-4710**.

View the flyer for more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/2009SeniorActionDayFlier.pdf>

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration, you can do so by sending an email with the description to: gaca@az.gov.

Thank you and have a great week!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

Welcome to the Legislative Update for April 3, 2009

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. It is our intent to offer the Legislative Update weekly during the 2009 session of the Arizona State Legislature. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and action taking place at the Legislature. The information provided is intended to help you form your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts to help ensure your perspective and voice are heard. *Please note the Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* We thank you for your interest!

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

A bill a week seems to be the standard right now while the budget discussions continue to be first priority. SB1185: Internal Revenue Code; Conformity passed in the Senate on Thursday, was substituted for HB 2802 in the House and passed. By emergency clause, the bill as amended is intended to offset the potential loss of revenue (estimated at nearly \$73 million) resulting from conformity with new federal tax withholding policy.

The Joint Legislative Budget Committee released their Monthly Fiscal Highlights report on Tuesday which indicates revenue collections continue to be lower than projected and the state's loss of jobs in the last 12 months reached the largest decline since 1946. The report is linked here:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/mfh-mar-09.pdf>

The Governor is joining community leaders in an unprecedented gathering to discuss the Arizona budget crisis next Thursday, April 9th at the Tempe Center for the Arts. To read more about the special summit, go to:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/dms/upload/MA_040309_GPEC%20-%20Community%20Budget%20Discussion.pdf

Arguments at the legislature on how to close the FY 2010 projected \$3.4 billion deficit continue. The House Democrats released their 2010 budget plan on Tuesday. The information is posted at:

<http://www.strongerarizona.com/>

House Republicans responded to the House Democrats plan in a statement found at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/press/House/49leg/1R/033009%5FDEMS+BUDGET+NOT+BALANCEDT%2EDOC.htm>

You can check the press releases of both the Senate and House by visiting this link at the Arizona State Legislature website:

<http://www.azleg.gov/PressReleases.asp>

April 10th marks the last day by leadership order for House committees to consider Senate bills and Senate committees to hear House bills.

At the end of day 82 of the 2009 Arizona Legislative Session, 1099 bills posted, two (2) passed, one (1) signed and 96 memorials and resolutions posted.

Please be advised that the presence of a bill on the Council's web page *does not* represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill. It *does* mean that the bill topic is something that is likely to be of interest to or have an impact on Arizona seniors so the Council is tracking the bill's progress.

STATE LEGISLATION:

Visit the link below to view the Council's web page and the list of bills the Council is tracking.

FULL LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=364&listid=13720&print=true>

Highlights of legislative actions taken on bills the Council is tracking include:

HB 2399: *Automated External Defibrillators* House Committee of the Whole on 4/2/09

Scheduled Hearings on bills the Council is tracking include:

H2344: *Vulnerable Adults: Financial Exploitation* Hearing House Rules 4/6 at 1:00 pm, House Room 4

Reminder: Be sure to check the Arizona State Legislature website for Senate, House and Joint Legislative Budget committee agendas and updates to those agendas at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/CommitteeAgendas.asp?Body=H&ShowAll=OFF>

The website FULL List link provides you with the current status and upcoming hearing information about the bills being tracked by the Council and is available and updated on an ongoing basis, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. *Information about bill status, hearing, etc. is a purchased service provided by the Arizona Capitol Times.*

Contact Your Policymakers: If you have a particular perspective about anything in a piece of legislation that is being considered, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-4331 or toll-free at 800-253-0883

Or you may contact the legislator from your area. If you do not know how to reach your local legislator, start at the homepage under *How do I find My Legislators* or follow the instructions provided at both the Senate and House Member links at the website.

Arizona State Legislature website: <http://www.azleg.gov/>

FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

S.277

Serve America Act

S.277 was introduced on January 16, 2009 by Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA). There are 42 cosponsors on this bill.

The bill amends the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to expand and improve opportunities for service, and for other purposes.

S.277 creates two new service-learning programs. The bill establishes the Commission on Cross-Sector Solutions to America's Problems to study ways in which the federal government and businesses can more effectively collaborate with nonprofit and philanthropic organizations to address pressing national and local challenges.

The bill creates a Community Solutions Funds Pilot program awarding competitive matching grants to grantmaking institutions or partnerships between such institutions and state or local governmental entities which will use the grants to provide competitive matching subgrants to community organizations for use in replicating or expanding proven solutions to specifically identified community challenges. It also establishes an Innovation Fellowships Pilot program awarding competitive grants to individuals who are veterans, or have completed at least one period of national service, to establish innovative nonprofit organizations that address national and local challenges.

S.277 creates a ServeAmerica Corps program providing formula grants to states and awarding competitive grants to states and nonprofit organizations to fund national service in low-income communities, and additional incentives for national service participation by individuals age 50 and older and makes ServeAmerica Corps participants eligible for national service educational awards. It directs a partnership composed of the Corporation, the Director of the Bureau of the Census, and the Commissioner of Labor Statistics.

The bill establishes the ServeAmerica and Encore Fellowships program providing ServeAmerica Fellowships to IHE-nominated individuals and Encore Fellowships to individuals age 50 or older who agree to be placed with nonprofit organizations to carry out projects in specified areas of national need.

S.277 creates a Volunteer Generation Fund program and establishes a National Service Reserve Corps of individuals who have completed a term of national service to respond to national disasters and other emergencies.

On March 18, 2009, S.277 was sent to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

For more information on the bill please go to the Thomas website <http://www.thomas.gov/> and enter the bill number under *Search Bill Summary & Status*.

To read the National Association of State Units on Aging comparison of Silver Alert Programs by state, go to:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/newsletter/Silver%20Alert%20Follow%20Up.pdf>

Contact Your Congressional Member: If you are interested in Congressional bills or wish to share your thoughts or concerns with your federal representatives, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House or <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the Senate.

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

The **Governors Advisory Council on Aging** wishes to thank all those who participated in the Council-sponsored Senior Action Day event. We appreciate the input we received via email, phone call, mail in and in person. Please note your input will be reviewed by the Council on Aging and shared as part of our statutory role to advise the Governor, the Legislature and state departments on matters concerning older Arizonans.

Please remember you can share your input with your legislators *at any time*. If you need help in locating your senator or representative and getting contact information, go to:

To find My Legislators:

<http://www.azleg.gov/alisStaticPages/HowToContactMember.asp>

Senate Members: <http://www.azleg.gov/MemberRoster.asp?Body=S>

House Members: <http://www.azleg.gov/memberRoster.asp?Body=H>

What: Time Out Workshop; Practical Solutions for Real Life Solutions

When: May 20, 2009, 8:00 a.m. 4:30 p.m., Scottsdale Civic Center Library, 3839 North Drinkwater Blvd., Scottsdale, AZ 85251

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/TimeOutFlyerMay2009.pdf>

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration, you can do so by sending an email with the description to: gaca@az.gov.

Thank you and have a great week!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

Welcome to the Legislative Update for April 9, 2009

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. It is our intent to offer the Legislative Update weekly during the 2009 session of the Arizona State Legislature. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and action taking place at the Legislature. The information provided is intended to help you form your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts to help ensure your perspective and voice are heard. *Please note the Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* We thank you for your interest!

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

No new updates to share. Things remain at a standstill. Bills are not moving as the budget continues to be the focal point.

Tomorrow, April 10th marks the last day by leadership order for House committees to consider Senate bills and Senate committees to hear House bills. April 17th is the last day by leadership order for consideration of bills in Conference Committee.

At the end of day 88 of the 2009 Arizona Legislative Session, the tally remains the same - 1099 bills posted, two (2) passed, one (1) signed and 96 memorials and resolutions posted.

Please be advised that the presence of a bill on the Council's web page *does not* represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill. It *does* mean that the bill topic is something that is likely to be of interest to or have an impact on Arizona seniors so the Council is tracking the bill's progress.

STATE LEGISLATION:

Visit the link below to view the Council's web page and the list of bills the Council is tracking.

FULL LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=364&listid=13720&print=true>

Highlights of legislative actions taken on bills the Council is tracking include:

HB 2344: Vulnerable Adults: Financial Exploitation – 4/7 from House Rules Committee

Reminder: Be sure to check the Arizona State Legislature website for Senate, House and Joint Legislative Budget committee agendas and updates to those agendas at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/CommitteeAgendas.asp?Body=H&ShowAll=OFF>

The website FULL List link provides you with the current status and upcoming hearing information about the bills being tracked by the Council and is available and updated on an ongoing basis, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. *Information about bill status, hearing, etc. is a purchased service provided by the Arizona Capitol Times.*

Contact Your Policymakers: If you have a particular perspective about anything in a piece of legislation that is being considered, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-4331 or toll-free at 800-253-0883

Or you may contact the legislator from your area. If you do not know how to reach your local legislator, start at the homepage under *How do I find My Legislators* or follow the instructions provided at both the Senate and House Member links at the website.

Arizona State Legislature website: <http://www.azleg.gov/>

FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

H.R. 1192

Alzheimer's Family Assistance Act of 2009

H.R. 1192 was introduced on February 25, 2009 by Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX-30). Cosponsor: Representative John T. Salazar (D-CO-3).

The purpose of H.R. 1192 is to amend the Internal Revenue Code to allow a phased-in tax credit (\$2,000 in 2009 increasing by \$500 each year until allowing \$3,500 in 2012 and thereafter) for family caregivers of spouses and dependents who have long-term care needs, allow a tax deduction for long-term care insurance premiums, and apply certain consumer protection standards to long-term care insurance contracts.

On February 25, 2009, the bill was sent to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

Last week we reported on S.277 Serve America Act. We are pleased to report that the Serve America Act passed last Thursday evening, April 2nd. You can access the bill at the Library of Congress website, THOMAS: <http://www.thomas.gov/>

To read more information about the allocation of federal stimulus funds to the states for nutrition programs, visit:

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2009pres/03/20090318a.html>

To see a breakdown of funding by state, go to:

<http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/programs/aoa/arrafunding.html>

Contact Your Congressional Member: If you are interested in Congressional bills or wish to share your thoughts or concerns with your federal representatives, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House or <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the Senate.

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

WHAT: The 2009 Arizona Alzheimer's Consortium Annual Conference

WHEN: May 29, 2009, 8 am – 5 pm, Renaissance Glendale Hotel & Spa, 9495 W. Coyotes Blvd., Glendale AZ

For more information and to register, go to:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/FormalInviteSheet.pdf>

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration as a resource or event listing, you can do so by sending an email with the description to: gaca@az.gov.

Thank you and have a great week!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

Welcome to the Legislative Update for April 17, 2009

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. It is our intent to offer the Legislative Update weekly during the 2009 session of the Arizona State Legislature. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and action taking place at the Legislature. The information provided is intended to help you form your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts to help ensure your perspective and voice are heard. *Please note the Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* We thank you for your interest!

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

While the focus on FY 2010 budget continues, legislation is basically idle.

To view a copy of the Governors April 9th Budget Briefing, go to:

<http://www.ospb.state.az.us/documents/BudgetBriefing040909.ppt>

On Thursday, Governor Brewer announced emergency assistance for homeless shelters facing potential closure. To read the press release, visit:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/dms/upload/NR_041609_Homeless%20Assistance_v3.pdf

Today marks the last day by leadership order for consideration of bills in Conference Committee. April 21st is the 100th Day of the session and by House and Senate rule, Sine Die would be April 25th.

At the end of day 96 of the 2009 Arizona Legislative Session, the tally is unchanged - 1099 bills posted, two (2) passed, one (1) signed and 96 memorials and resolutions posted.

Please be advised that the presence of a bill on the Council's web page *does not* represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill. It *does* mean that the bill topic is something that is likely to be of interest to or have an impact on Arizona seniors so the Council is tracking the bill's progress.

STATE LEGISLATION:

Visit the link below to view the Council's web page and the list of bills the Council is tracking.

FULL LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=364&listid=13720&print=true>

Highlights of legislative actions taken on bills the Council is tracking include:

H2616: Living Wills; Health Care Directives - 4/13 from House Rules Committee

Scheduled Hearings on bills the Council is tracking include:

H2629: License Plate Obstruction; Wheelchair Holders Hearing: House Rules
4/20/09, 1:00 PM, House Rm. 4

Reminder: Be sure to check the Arizona State Legislature website for Senate, House and Joint Legislative Budget committee agendas and updates to those agendas at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/CommitteeAgendas.asp?Body=H&ShowAll=OFF>

The website FULL List link provides you with the current status and upcoming hearing information about the bills being tracked by the Council and is available and updated on an ongoing basis, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. *Information about bill status, hearing, etc. is a purchased service provided by the Arizona Capitol Times.*

Contact Your Policymakers: If you have a particular perspective about anything in a piece of legislation that is being considered, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-4331 or toll-free at 800-253-0883

Or you may contact the legislator from your area. If you do not know how to reach your local legislator, start at the homepage under *How do I find My Legislators* or follow the instructions provided at both the Senate and House Member links at the website.

Arizona State Legislature website: **<http://www.azleg.gov/>**

FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

H. Con. Res. 59

Supporting the goals and ideals of senior caregiving and affordability.

H.Con. Res. 59 was introduced on February 24, 2009 by Representative Terry Lee (R-NE-2). Cosponsors: Rep. Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. (GA-2), Rep. Madeleine Z. Bordallo (GU), Rep. Marcy Kaptur (OH-9), Rep. Ron Klein (FL-22), and Rep. Thaddeus G. McCotter (MI-11)

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Supporting the goals and ideals of senior caregiving and affordability.

Whereas 8,000 people in the United States turn 60 years old every day;

Whereas an estimated 35,900,000 people, 12.4 percent of the population, are 65 years of age and older;

Whereas the United States population age 65 and older is expected to more than double in the next 50 years to 86,700,000 in 2050;

Whereas the 85 and older population is projected to reach 9,600,000 in 2030 and double again to 20,900,000 in 2050;

Whereas it is estimated that 4,500,000 people in the United States have Alzheimer's disease today;

Whereas it is estimated that number will increase to between 11,300,000 and 16,000,000 by 2050;

Whereas 70 percent of people with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias live at home, and these individuals are examples of individuals who need assistance in their homes with their `activities of daily living';

Whereas currently over 25 percent of all seniors need some level of assistance with their `activities of daily living';

Whereas in order to address the surging population of seniors who have significant needs for in-home care, the field of senior caregiving will continue to grow;

Whereas there are an estimated 44,000,000 adults in the United States providing care to adult relatives or friends and an estimated 725,000 nonfamily private paid senior caregivers;

Whereas both unpaid family caregivers and paid caregivers work together to serve the daily living needs of seniors who live in their own homes;

Whereas the Department of Labor estimated that paid caregivers for the year 2006 worked a total of 835,000,000 hours, and the projected hours of paid senior caregivers are estimated to increase to 4,350,000,000 hours by 2025; and

Whereas the longer a senior is able to provide for his or her own care, the less burden is placed on public payment systems in State and Federal governments: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress--

(1) focuses on learning more about senior care and being prepared to manage the needs of our aging population;

(2) recognizes caregiving as a profession;

(3) supports the efforts of family caregivers nationwide by encouraging individuals to provide care to family, friends, and neighbors;

- (4) fosters a private home care industry environment that supports enterprise to provide accessible and affordable caregiving services to seniors while providing standardized training to paid caregivers that offers opportunity for their continued growth and development;
- (5) studies alternatives to make caregiving for seniors even more accessible and affordable, and reviews Federal policies that relate to caregiving for seniors;
- (6) examines and continues to fund current Federal programs which address the accessibility and affordability needs of seniors and their family caregivers; and
- (7) encourages the Secretary of Health and Human Services to continue working to educate people in the United States on the impact of aging and the importance of knowing the options available to seniors when they need care to meet their personal needs.

On March 30, 2009, the resolution was referred to House Subcommittee on Healthy Families and Communities.

Arizona is one of the states chosen to participate in the CMS Nursing Home Value-Based Purchasing demonstration project. For more information, visit:

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/DemoProjectsEvalRpts/MD/itemdetail.asp?filterType=none&filterByDID=-99&sortByDID=3&sortOrder=descending&itemID=CMS1198946&intNumPerPage=10>

Contact Your Congressional Member: If you are interested in Congressional bills or wish to share your thoughts or concerns with your federal representatives, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House or <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the Senate.

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

WHAT: The 2009 Arizona Alzheimer's Consortium Annual Conference

WHEN: May 29, 2009, 8 am 5 pm, Renaissance Glendale Hotel & Spa, 9495 W. Coyotes Blvd., Glendale AZ

For more information and to register, go to:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/FormalInviteSheet.pdf>

WHAT: 26th Annual Shi' Woye' Elderfest 2009

WHEN: May 14, 2009, Chief Alchesay Activity Center, Whiteriver, Arizona

For more information and to register, go to:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/8548143.JPG>

WHAT: The Arizona Legislative Information System Workshop

WHEN: Thursday, April 30, 2009, 9am 4pm, The Disability Empowerment Center (DEC), Nina Mason Pulliam Conference Center, 5025 E. Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ 85034

For more information and to register, go to:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/ALISFlyer.pdf>

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration as a resource or event listing, you can do so by sending an email with the description to: gaca@az.gov.

Please note the Governor's Office on Aging website is in the process of being updated.

Thank you and have a great week!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

Welcome to the Legislative Update for April 23, 2009

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. It is our intent to offer the Legislative Update weekly during the 2009 session of the Arizona State Legislature. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and action taking place at the Legislature. The information provided is intended to help you form your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts to help ensure your perspective and voice are heard. *Please note the Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* We thank you for your interest!

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

The anticipated release of the 2010 budget plan by the Senate and House leadership is still pending as of this date but expected to occur early next week. To view the posted Senate Appropriations Committee agenda for 4/28/09, go to:

<http://www.azleg.gov/agendas/0428010987.pdf>

Last week, the Joint Legislative Budget Committee released an update on ARRA funding for Arizona; that report can be found at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/arrasummary041709.pdf>

To view Governor Brewer's statement on the conference call with Vice President Biden regarding stimulus funding for states, go to:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/dms/upload/NR_042109_VPJoeBiden.pdf

On Wednesday, the Senate passed bills S1322 and S1102 as emergency measures to ensure receipt of federal dollars available through the stimulus funding. S1322 provides a 13-week extension of unemployment benefits and S1102 provides a tech change in state law in order to qualify for and receive \$1.6 billion in federal stimulus dollars for AHCCCS. To access the bills, go to:

http://www.azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill_Number=SB1102

http://www.azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill_Number=SB1322

Tuesday, April 21st marked the 100th day of the session. April 25th the Saturday of the week of the 100th session - is the date required by rule for sine die adjournment unless leadership extends the deadline. Leadership can extend no more than 7 days; thereafter any extension requires a majority vote in each house. At the end of day 102 of the 2009 Arizona Legislative Session, the tally is - 1101 bills posted, two (2) passed, one (2) signed and 96 memorials and resolutions posted; one (1) passed.

Please be advised that the presence of a bill on the Council's web page *does not* represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill. It *does* mean that the bill topic is something that is likely to be of interest to or have an impact on Arizona seniors so the Council is tracking the bill's progress.

STATE LEGISLATION:

Visit the link below to view the Council's web page and the list of bills the Council is tracking.

FULL LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=364&listid=13720&print=true>

Highlights of legislative actions taken on bills the Council is tracking include:

H2629: License Plate Obstruction; Wheelchair Holders 4/20/09 from House Rules Committee.

Scheduled Hearings on bills the Council is tracking include:

None of the bills have scheduled hearings at this time.

Reminder: Be sure to check the Arizona State Legislature website for Senate, House and Joint Legislative Budget committee agendas and updates to those agendas at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/CommitteeAgendas.asp?Body=H&ShowAll=OFF>

The website FULL List link provides you with the current status and upcoming hearing information about the bills being tracked by the Council and is available and updated on an ongoing basis, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. *Information about bill status, hearing, etc. is a purchased service provided by the Arizona Capitol Times.*

Contact Your Policymakers: If you have a particular perspective about anything in a piece of legislation that is being considered, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-4331 or toll-free at 800-253-0883

Or you may contact the legislator from your area. If you do not know how to reach your local legislator, start at the homepage under *How do I find My Legislators* or follow the instructions provided at both the Senate and House Member links at the website.

Arizona State Legislature website: <http://www.azleg.gov/>

FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

H.R. 1140

Home Energy Assistance Targeted for Seniors Act

H.R. 1140 was introduced on February 23, 2009 by Representative Anthony D. Weiner (D-NY-9).

The Act:

1. amends the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 to rename it the Low-Income and Senior Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981
2. redefines low-income households as households with incomes which do not exceed that of state median income, with at least 50% of the household income attributable to persons who are at least 65 years old.

On March 30, 2009, H.R. 1140 was referred to the Subcommittee on Healthy Families and Communities

To read more about H.R. 1140, go to the Thomas website:
<http://www.thomas.gov/> and enter the bill number at *Search Bill Summary & Status*.

The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services recently released guidelines for securing health information. To view the April 17th HHS press release, go to:

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2009pres/04/20090417a.html>

Contact Your Congressional Member: If you are interested in Congressional bills or wish to share your thoughts or concerns with your federal representatives, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House or <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the Senate.

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

WHAT: The Arizona Legislative Information System Workshop

WHEN: Thursday, April 30, 2009, 9am - 4pm, The Disability Empowerment Center (DEC), Nina Mason Pulliam Conference Center, 5025 E. Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ 85034

For more information and to register, go to:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/ALISFlyer.pdf>

WHAT: 26th Annual Shi' Woye' Elderfest 2009

WHEN: May 14, 2009, Chief Alchesay Activity Center, Whiteriver, Arizona

For more information and to register:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/8548143.JPG>

WHAT: The 6th Annual Conference for Long Term Care Professionals 2009-2010

WHEN: May 27, 2009, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, Pueblo Norte, 7090 East Mescal St., Scottsdale, AZ 85254

For more information and to register, go to:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/LTCConfFlyer2009-2010.pdf>

WHAT: The 2009 Arizona Alzheimer's Consortium Annual Conference

WHEN: May 29, 2009, 8 am - 5 pm, Renaissance Glendale Hotel & Spa, 9495 W. Coyotes Blvd., Glendale AZ

For more information and to register, go to:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/FormalInviteSheet.pdf>

WHAT: 2009 Break the Silence Event to End Elder Abuse

WHEN: June 15, 2009, 10 am - 12:00 noon, Carnegie Center, 1101 W. Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ 85007

For more information and to register:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/BTSFlyerV414.pdf>

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration as a resource or event listing, you can do so by sending an email with the description to: gaca@az.gov.

Be sure to visit the Governors Office on Aging website at:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/aging/>

Thank you and have a great week!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

Welcome to the Legislative Update for May 1, 2009

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. It is our intent to offer the Legislative Update weekly during the 2009 session of the Arizona State Legislature. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and action taking place at the Legislature. The information provided is intended to help you form your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts to help ensure your perspective and voice are heard. *Please note the Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* We thank you for your interest!

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

2010 Budget plan?

According to the committee agenda of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, the group will meet on Tuesday, May 5th and consider bills for budget reconciliation. View the current committee agenda at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/agendas/0505010987.pdf>

To see the latest summary by the JLBC on **federal stimulus funding** for Arizona, visit:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/arrasummary042809.pdf>

Grim news about state revenues continues. The JLBC April report indicates the shortfall for the current fiscal year is larger than anticipated. Read the monthly fiscal report at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/mfh-apr-09.pdf>

Last Friday, **Governor Brewer signed Senate Bills S1322 and S1102**; legislation that extends benefits for unemployed workers and allows Arizona to collect \$1.6 billion in federal funds for the States Medicaid program. To access the bills, go to:

http://www.azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill_Number=SB1102

http://www.azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill_Number=SB1322

At the end of day 110 of the 2009 Arizona Legislative Session, the tally is: 1101 bills posted, four (4) passed, four (4) signed and 96 memorials and resolutions posted; one (1) passed.

Please be advised that the presence of a bill on the Council's web page *does not* represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill. It *does* mean that the bill topic is something that is likely to be of interest to or have an impact on Arizona seniors so the Council is tracking the bill's progress.

STATE LEGISLATION:

Visit the link below to view the Council's web page and the list of bills the Council is tracking.

FULL LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=364&listid=13720&print=true>

Highlights of legislative actions taken on bills the Council is tracking include:

H2344: Vulnerable Adults; Financial Exploitation House Committee of the Whole, 4/30/09.

H2513: Reverse Mortgages House Committee of the Whole, 4/30/09.

H2616: Living Wills; Health Care Directives House Committee of the Whole approved as amended, 4/28/09. To access H2616 and the approved amendments, go to:

http://www.azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill_Number=HB2616

Scheduled Hearings on bills the Council is tracking include: None scheduled at this time.

Reminder : Be sure to check the Arizona State Legislature website for Senate, House and Joint Legislative Budget committee agendas and *updates to those agendas* at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/CommitteeAgendas.asp?Body=H&ShowAll=OFF>

The website FULL List link provides you with the current status and upcoming hearing information about the bills being tracked by the Council and is available and updated on an ongoing basis, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. *Information about bill status, hearing, etc. is a purchased service provided by the Arizona Capitol Times.*

Contact Your Policymakers: If you have a particular perspective about anything in a piece of legislation that is being considered, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-4331 or toll-free at 800-253-0883

Or you may contact the legislator from your area. If you do not know how to reach your local legislator, start at the homepage under *How do I find My Legislators* or follow the instructions provided at both the Senate and House Member links at the website.

Arizona State Legislature website: <http://www.azleg.gov/>

FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

S. 697

Community Living Assistance Services and Supports Act or the CLASS Act'

Introduced by Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA) on 3/25/09, the bill will amend the Public Health Service Act to help individuals with functional impairments and their families pay for services and supports that they need to maximize their functionality and independence and have choices about community participation, education, and employment, and for other purposes.

The purposes of the Act:

(1) To provide individuals with functional limitations with tools that will allow them to maintain their personal and financial independence and live in the community through a new financing strategy for community living assistance services and supports.

(2) To establish an infrastructure that will help address America's community living assistance services and supports needs.

(3) To alleviate burdens on family caregivers

On March 25, 2009, the bill was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

To read the entire text of the legislation, go to the **Thomas** website: <http://www.thomas.gov/> and enter the bill number (S.697) at *Search Bill Summary & Status*.

This week, the **World Health Organization (WHO)** and the **U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS)** released a worldwide and nationwide public health emergency declaration, respectively in response to on-going reports of human infections with swine influenza A Swine Flu.

For more information about Swine Flu, go to: <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/>

To view the **Arizona Department of Health Services** on-going updates on the swine influenza, visit this website page: <http://www.azdhs.gov/flu/swine/index.htm>

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently announced pilot program sites to participate in the Care Transitions Project. The Project is intended to improve quality as patients move across care settings. To read more about the project, go to:

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/apps/media/press/release.asp?Counter=3439>

Contact Your Congressional Member: If you are interested in Congressional bills or wish to share your thoughts or concerns with your federal representatives, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House or <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the Senate.

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

May is Older Americans Month and we encourage you to visit the Administration on Aging website to learn more about this annual recognition of our nations seniors.

http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Observances/oam/archive/archive.aspx

To access resources and tools to help celebrate this important month, go to:

http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Observances/oam/oam.aspx

WHAT: 26th Annual Shi' Woye' Elderfest 2009

WHEN: May 14, 2009, Chief Alchesay Activity Center, Whiteriver, Arizona

For more information and to register:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/8548143.JPG>

WHAT: The 2009 Arizona Alzheimer's Consortium Annual Conference

WHEN: May 29, 2009, 8 am 5 pm, Renaissance Glendale Hotel & Spa, 9495 W. Coyotes Blvd., Glendale AZ

For more information and to register, go to:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/FormalInviteSheet.pdf>

WHAT: 2009 Break the Silence Event to End Elder Abuse

WHEN: June 15, 2009, 10 am 12:00 noon, Carnegie Center, 1101 W. Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ 85007

For more information and to register:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/BTSFlyerV414.pdf>

WHAT: Aging Services of Arizona 26th Annual Conference & Exposition

WHEN: June 13, 2009, Radisson Resort & Conference Center Fort McDowell

For more information and to register:

<http://www.azaha.org/files/Conference09.pdf>

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration as a resource or event listing, you can do so by sending an email with the description to: gaca@az.gov.

Be sure to visit the Governor's Office on Aging website at: <http://www.azgovernor.gov/aging/>

Thank you and have a great week!
~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

Welcome to the Legislative Update for May 7, 2009

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. It is our intent to offer the Legislative Update weekly during the 2009 session of the Arizona State Legislature. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and action taking place at the Legislature. The information provided is intended to help you form your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts to help ensure your perspective and voice are heard. *Please note the Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* We thank you for your interest!

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

On Tuesday, the House Appropriations Committee voted ten (10) budget bills out of committee. The House budget plan includes transfer of fund monies to the state general fund, expenditure reductions, use of federal stimulus funding, and additional revenues. The House summary of the bills can be found at: [HB2633](#); [HB2634](#); [HB2635](#); [HB2636](#); [HB2637](#); [HB2638](#); [HB2639](#); [HB2640](#); [HB2641](#); and [HB2642](#).

(Note: these bills have been added to the Councils tracking list and can be accessed through the web report link provided in this newsletter.)

The Joint Legislative Budget Committee Summary of the House Budget Plan can be accessed at:
<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/HouseBudgetPlanSummary5-4-09.pdf>

The JLBC summary includes details of the proposed general fund spending reductions, fund transfers, federal assistance, prior year carry forwards, additional revenues and non-tax revenues as well as a list of budget changes by agency.

To read the JLBC House Budget Reconciliation Bill (H2635) Summary, go to: <http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/hbrbsummary050409.pdf>

The Governor reiterated her support for all 5 points of her Budget Plan in a press release provided at:
http://www.azgovernor.gov/dms/upload/NR_050709_StatementRe5PointPlan.pdf

At the end of day 116 of the 2009 Arizona Legislative Session, the tally is: 1111 bills posted, four (4) passed, four (4) signed and 96 memorials and resolutions posted; one (1) passed.

Please be advised that the presence of a bill on the Council's web page *does not* represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill. It *does* mean that the bill topic is something that is likely to be of interest to or have an impact on Arizona seniors so the Council is tracking the bill's progress.

STATE LEGISLATION:

Visit the link below to view the Council's web page and the list of bills the Council is tracking.

FULL LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=364&listid=13720&print=true>

Highlights of legislative actions taken on bills the Council is tracking include:

H2061: Retirement; Corp; Probation Officers; Customary Employment - House Committee of the Whole, 5/7/09.

H2629: License Plates; Second Plate House Committee of the Whole approved as amended, 5/6/09.

Scheduled Hearings on bills the Council is tracking include:
(None at this time.)

Reminder: Be sure to check the Arizona State Legislature website for Senate, House and Joint Legislative Budget committee agendas and *updates to those agendas* at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/CommitteeAgendas.asp?Body=H&ShowAll=OFF>

The website **FULL List link** provides you with the current status and upcoming hearing information about the bills being tracked by the Council and is available and updated on an ongoing basis, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. *Information about bill status, hearing, etc. is a purchased service provided by the Arizona Capitol Times.*

Contact Your Policymakers: If you have a particular perspective about anything in a piece of legislation that is being considered, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-4331 or toll-free at 800-253-0883

Or you may contact the legislator from your area. If you do not know how to reach your local legislator, start at the homepage under *How do I find My Legislators* or follow the instructions provided at both the Senate and House Member links at the website.

Arizona State Legislature website: <http://www.azleg.gov/>

FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

S. 795

Elder Justice Act of 2009

Introduced by Senator Orrin G. Hatch (R-UT) on 4/2/2009, the bill amends the Social Security Act to establish an Elder Justice program under title XX (Block Grants to States for Social Services).

The Elder Justice Act:

1. Establishes within the Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) an Elder Justice Coordinating Council (EJCC).
2. Establishes the Advisory Board on Elder Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation.
3. Directs the Secretary to make grants to eligible entities to establish stationary and mobile forensic centers, to develop forensic expertise regarding, and provide services relating to, elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
4. Directs the Secretary to provide incentives for individuals to train for, seek, and maintain employment providing direct care in a long-term care (LTC) facility.
5. Directs the Secretary to make grants to LTC facilities to: (1) offer continuing training and varying levels of certification to employees who provide direct care to LTC facility residents; and (2) provide bonuses or other benefits to employees who achieve certification.

6. Authorizes the Secretary to make grants to assist LTC facilities in offsetting the costs for standardized clinical health care informatics systems designed to improve patient safety and reduce adverse events and health care complications resulting from medication errors.

7. Directs the Secretary to ensure that HHS: (1) provides funding to state and local adult protective services offices that investigate reports of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation; and (2) collects and disseminates related data in coordination with the Department of Justice.

8. Establishes a program of annual adult protective services grants to states.

9. Directs the Secretary to make grants to eligible entities to: (1) improve the capacity of state LTC ombudsman programs to respond to and resolve abuse and neglect complaints; and (2) conduct pilot programs with state or local LTC ombudsman offices.

10. Directs the Secretary to establish programs to provide and improve ombudsman training for national organizations and state LTC ombudsman programs.

11. Amends part A of SSA title XI to require each individual owner, operator, employee, manager, agent, or contractor of an LTC facility receiving certain federal support to report to the Secretary and local law enforcement entities any reasonable suspicion of crimes occurring in such facility.

12. Requires the owner or operator of such an LTC facility to notify the Secretary and the appropriate state regulatory agency of a facility's impending closure, as well as a plan for the transfer and adequate relocation of facility residents.

13. Directs the Secretary to study and report to the EJCC and appropriate congressional committees on establishing a national nurse aide registry.

S. 795 was referred to the Senate Committee on Finance on 4/2/2009.
Note: A companion bill H.R. 2006 was introduced in the House on 4/21/09 by Representative Peter T. King (R-NY-3)

To read the entire text of the legislation, go to the **Thomas** website: <http://www.thomas.gov/> and enter the bill number at *Search Bill Summary & Status*.

Contact Your Congressional Member: If you are interested in Congressional bills or wish to share your thoughts or concerns with your federal representatives, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House or <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the Senate.

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

May is Older Americans Month! We encourage you to visit the Administration on Aging website to learn more about this annual recognition of our nation's seniors and access resources and tools for your celebration.

http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Observances/oam/archive/archive.aspx

http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Observances/oam/oam.aspx

During Older Americans Month, be sure to see the extensive list of mature workforce events posted on the **Mature Worker website**:

<http://www.azmatureworkers.com/default.asp?PageID=10007895>

In recognition of Mothers Day, CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) reminded the provider community this week to help keep women healthy through Medicare-covered preventive services.

Medicare covers mammograms, bone mass measurements, screening pap tests, and screening pelvic exams, among other services, that can help women live longer, healthier lives. The **Medicare Learning Network** (MLN) offers a variety of educational products related to Medicare-covered preventive services geared towards women. They include:

The Bone Mass Measurements brochure, which provides information on Medicare coverage of bone-mass measurements:

http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/bone_mass.pdf .

The Cancer Screenings brochure, which provides information on Medicare coverage of cancer screenings, including screening mammography, screening pelvic exams, and screening pap tests: http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/downloads/cancer_screening.pdf.

For additional educational products, including quick reference guides and web-based training courses, please visit the Medicare Preventive Services MLN products website at: http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/35_PreventiveServices.asp.

WHAT: 2009 Break the Silence Event to End Elder Abuse
WHEN: June 15, 2009, 10 am 12:00 noon, Carnegie Center, 1101 W. Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ 85007
For more information and to register:
<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/BTSFlyerV414.pdf>

WHAT: Aging Services of Arizona 26th Annual Conference & Exposition
WHEN: June 13, 2009, Radisson Resort & Conference Center Fort McDowell
For more information and to register:
<http://www.azaha.org/files/Conference09.pdf>

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration as a resource or event listing, you can do so by sending an email with the description to: gaca@az.gov.

Be sure to visit the Governors Office on Aging website at: <http://www.azgovernor.gov/aging/>

Thank you and have a great week!
~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

Welcome to the Legislative Update for May 15, 2009

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. It is our intent to offer the Legislative Update weekly during the 2009 session of the Arizona State Legislature. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and action taking place at the Legislature. The information provided is intended to help you form your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts to help ensure your perspective and voice are heard. *Please note the Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* We thank you for your interest!

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

This week, the Governor signed a two-bill package that addresses the growing FY09 budget deficit by delaying payments to universities, suspending K-12 school payments and using federal stimulus funding. Links to the legislation are provided here:

H2028: http://www.azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill_Number=HB2028

H2029: http://www.azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill_Number=HB2029

To read Governor Brewer's statement regarding this action and the FY2010 budget, visit:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/dms/upload/NR_051409_StatementLegUpdate.pdf

At the end of day 124 of the 2009 Arizona Legislative Session: 1111 bills posted, six (6) passed, six (6) signed and 96 memorials and resolutions posted; one (1) passed.

Please be advised that the presence of a bill on the Council's web page *does not* represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill. It *does* mean that the bill topic is something that is likely to be of interest to or have an impact on Arizona seniors so the Council is tracking the bill's progress.

STATE LEGISLATION:

Visit the link below to view the Council's web page and the list of bills the Council is tracking.

FULL LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=364&listid=13720&print=true>

Highlights of legislative actions taken on bills the Council is tracking include:

H2091: Charitable Organizations; Solicitations; Disclosures - passed House; ready for Senate, 5/13/09.

H2110: Public Retirement Plans; Federal Changes - passed House; ready for Senate, 5/12/09.

Scheduled Hearings on bills the Council is tracking include:

S1049: Fingerprint Clearance Cards Senate Public Safety & Human Services Committee, 5/20/09, 10:30 am, Senate Room 3.

H2622: Dependent Children; Relatives; Disclosure - House Rules Committee, 5/18/09, 1:00 pm, House Rm. 4.

Reminder: Be sure to check the Arizona State Legislature website for Senate, House and Joint Legislative Budget committee agendas and *updates to those agendas* at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/CommitteeAgendas.asp?Body=H&ShowAll=OFF>

The website **FULL List link** provides you with the current status and upcoming hearing information about the bills being tracked by the Council and is available and updated on an ongoing basis, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. *Information about bill status, hearing, etc. is a purchased service provided by the Arizona Capitol Times.*

Contact Your Policymakers: If you have a particular perspective about anything in a piece of legislation that is being considered, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-4331 or toll-free at 800-253-0883

Or you may contact the legislator from your area. If you do not know how to reach your local legislator, start at the homepage under *How do I find My Legislators* or follow the instructions provided at both the Senate and House Member links at the website.

Arizona State Legislature website: <http://www.azleg.gov/>

FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

H.R.1457

Geriatrics Loan Forgiveness Act of 2009

The Geriatrics Loan Forgiveness Act of 2009 was introduced on March 12, 2009 by Representative Rosa DeLauro (D-CT-3) with six co-sponsors: Representative Ron Klein (D-FL-22), Representative James P. McGovern (D-MA-3), Rep Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, (R-FL-18), Representative Janice D. Schakowsky (D-IL-9), Representative Joe Sestak (D-PA-7) and Representative Christopher H. Smith (R-NJ-4).

The purpose of the Act is to amend the Public Health Service Act to deem certain geriatric health training to be obligated service for purposes of the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program, and for other purposes.

On March 12, 2009, H.R. 1457 was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

S. 683

Community Choice Act of 2009

Introduced on March 24, 2009 by Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) and twenty two cosponsors, S. 683 amends title XIX (Medicaid) of the Social Security Act (SSA) to require state Medicaid plan coverage of community-based attendance services and supports for certain Medicaid-eligible individuals. The Act outlines requirements for:

1. an enhanced federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) for ongoing activities of early coverage states that enhance and promote the use of community-based attendant services and supports.
2. increased federal financial participation for certain expenditures incurred by the state for the provision of such services and supports.

The Community Choice Act of 2009 directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to:

1. award grants to eligible states which have established a Consumer Task Force to assist the state in its development of real choice systems change initiatives.
2. conduct a demonstration project for the purpose of evaluating service coordination and cost-sharing approaches with respect to the provision of community-based services and supports to dually eligible individuals.

On March 24, 2009, the Act was referred to the Senate Committee on Finance. Note: a related bill, H.R. 1670 was introduced in the House on March 23, 2009 by Representative Danny K. Davis (D-IL-7) and was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce that day.

To read the entire text of this legislation, go to the **Thomas** website: <http://www.thomas.gov/> and enter the bill number (H.R. 1457 or S. 683) at *Search Bill Summary & Status*.

Contact Your Congressional Member: If you are interested in Congressional bills or wish to share your thoughts or concerns with your federal representatives, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House or <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the Senate.

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:
May is Older Americans Month!

During Older Americans Month - your organization may want to consider becoming a Mature Worker Friendly Certified Employer! Learn more about the certification process and see the list of Arizona certified employers on the **Mature Worker website:**

<http://www.azmatureworkers.com/default.asp?PageID=10007896>

On Monday, the **Department of Health and Human Services** (HHS) announced the availability of \$50 million in grants from the Strengthening Communities Fund, a new fund created by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, in support of non-profits and faith-based groups.

To find out more information, go to: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2009pres/05/20090511c.html>

WHAT: 2009 Break the Silence Event to End Elder Abuse

WHEN: June 15, 2009, 10 am 12:00 noon, Carnegie Center, 1101 W. Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ 85007

For more information and to register:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/BTSFlyerV414.pdf>

According to the **Administration on Aging**, the TV Converter Box Coupon Program rolls out its Mobile Assistance Centers this month, providing consumers with one-on-one assistance in preparing for the end of the digital transition by June 12, 2009. Beginning this month, the traveling vans will visit 28 cities across the country with staff to help consumers apply for coupons and to demonstrate how to hook-up converter boxes. To find out where the mobile centers will be visiting in Arizona, go to: <https://www.dtv2009.gov/Partners.aspx> and click on the Mobile Assistance Centers Tour Schedule.

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration as a resource or event listing, you can do so by sending an email with the description to: gaca@az.gov.

Be sure to visit the Governor's Office on Aging website at:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/aging/>

Thank you and have a great week!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

Welcome to the Legislative Update for May 22, 2009

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. It is our intent to offer the Legislative Update weekly during the 2009 session of the Arizona State Legislature. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and action taking place at the Legislature. The information provided is intended to help you form your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts to help ensure your perspective and voice are heard. *Please note the Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* We thank you for your interest!

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

This week, the Senate Appropriations Committee passed a ten-bill package that balances the **2010 budget** through spending reductions and delays, fund transfers, federal stimulus dollars and additional revenues. The plan proposed results in significant impact to agencies such as AHCCCS, DHS, and DES.

To review the JLBC Summary of Senate Budget Plan, go to:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/senatebudgetplansummary052009.pdf>

The Senate Budget Reconciliation Bill Summary is found at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/sbrbsummarys-eamendment052009.pdf>

On Thursday, Governor Brewer provided a state of the state address to the Tucson Chamber of Commerce and called a special session in response to the Arizona Supreme Courts decision in Cain v. Horne. A link to Governor Brewer's remarks to the Chamber and the call for special session are provided:

http://www.governor.state.az.us/dms/upload/NR_052009_Governor%20Brewer%20addresses%20Tucson%20Chamber.pdf

http://www.azgovernor.gov/dms/upload/NR_052009_Governor%20Brewer%20Special%20Session%20Call%20Two.pdf

Keep updated on legislative activities by checking the press releases of both the Senate and House at the Arizona State Legislature website:

<http://www.azleg.gov/PressReleases.asp>

At the end of day 131 of the 2009 Arizona Legislative Session, 1,111 bills posted, six (6) passed, six (6) signed; 96 memorials and resolutions posted and one (1) passed.

Please be advised that the presence of a bill on the Council's web page *does not* represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill. It *does* mean that the bill topic is something that is likely to be of interest to or have an impact on Arizona seniors so the Council is tracking the bill's progress.

STATE LEGISLATION:

Visit the link below to view the Council's web page and the list of bills the Council is tracking.

FULL LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=364&listid=13720&print=true>

Highlights of legislative actions taken on bills the Council is tracking include:

S1049: Fingerprint Clearance Cards: from Senate Public Safety & Human Services as amended 5/20/09.

H2007: Retirement; Corp; Return to Work: passed House and ready for Senate 5/18/09.

H2622: Dependent Children; Relatives; Disclosure: from House Rules 5/18/09.

Scheduled Hearings on bills the Council is tracking include:

S1049: Fingerprint Clearance Cards: Senate Rules, 5/26/09, 9:30 am, 2nd floor Caucus Room.

Reminder: Be sure to check the Arizona State Legislature website for updated Senate, House and Joint Legislative Budget committee agendas at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/CommitteeAgendas.asp?Body=H&ShowAll=OFF>

The website FULL List link provides you with the current status and upcoming hearing information about the bills being tracked by the Council and is available and updated on an ongoing basis, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. *Information about bill status, hearing, etc. is a purchased service provided by the Arizona Capitol Times.*

Reminder: *You can contact your policymaker. If you have a particular perspective about budget bills or anything in a piece of legislation that is being considered, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:*

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-4331 or toll-free at 800-253-0883

Or you may contact the **legislator from your area**. If you do not know how to reach your local legislator, start at the homepage under *How do I find My Legislators* or follow the instructions provided at both the Senate and House Member links at the website.

Arizona State Legislature website: <http://www.azleg.gov/>

FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

To follow up on:

S. 795 Elder Justice Act of 2009 which was highlighted earlier this month, the Administration on Aging's National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA) launched a campaign, "Join Us in the Fight against Elder Abuse." Starting this weekend, a brief elder abuse informational film will run before movie trailer in theaters in major metro areas including Arizona cities. To read the AOA press release, go to:

http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/for_the_press/pr/archive/2009/May/05_21_09.doc

HR 1 The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA)

The Senate Special Committee on Aging is urging the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) to provide funding from ARRA for prevention and wellness evidence based programs that help older adults live healthier lives. To read more, go to:

http://www.aging.senate.gov/hearing_detail.cfm?id=312954&

ALSO:

The **Senate Finance Committee**, chaired by Max Baucus (D-MT) with Charles Grassley (R-IA) as the groups ranking members, released **options for health reform** and invited public comment. You can review the recent committee reports at this link:

<http://finance.senate.gov/sitepages/legislation.htm>

Contact Your Congressional Member: If you are interested in Congressional bills or wish to share your thoughts or concerns with your federal representatives, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting:

<http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House or <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the Senate.

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

WHAT: Arizona Senior Center Association Annual Conference

WHEN: July 18, 2009, Mesa Active Adult Center, 247 North Macdonald Street, Mesa, Arizona 85201

For more information: <http://www.arizonaseniors.net/>

Announcement:

The 2009 employer application time period for the Mature Worker Friendly Employer Certification has now opened!

As of Wednesday, May 20th, the on-line application is posted on the Arizona Mature Worker Website,

<http://www.azmatureworkers.com/default.asp?PageID=10007896>

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration, you can do so by sending an email with the description to: gaca@az.gov.

Thank you and have a great week!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

Welcome to the Legislative Update for May 29, 2009

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. It is our intent to offer the Legislative Update weekly during the 2009 session of the Arizona State Legislature. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and action taking place at the Legislature. The information provided is intended to help you form your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts to help ensure your perspective and voice are heard. *Please note the Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* We thank you for your interest!

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

Legislation:

Today, as part of the 2nd Special Session: School Choice; Disabled & Foster Children, Governor Brewer signed H2001. To read the Governor's press release regarding the bill, go to:

http://www.governor.state.az.us/dms/upload/NR_052909_HouseBill2001.pdf

A link to the bill summary is provided:

http://www.azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill_Number=HB2001

General Revenues:

According to the **May 2009 JLBC Monthly Fiscal Highlights:** April collections were \$(505.9) million below the January revised budget forecast. You can view the entire report at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/mfh-may-09.pdf>

2010 Budget:

This week, the House and Senate Democrats released a joint budget proposal which can be viewed at: <http://www.strongerarizona.com/>.

With July 1st rapidly approaching, more budget action at the legislature and the administrative level is anticipated next week.

Keep updated on legislative activities by checking the press releases of both the Senate and House at the Arizona State Legislature website:

<http://www.azleg.gov/PressReleases.asp>

At the end of day 138 of the Regular 2009 Arizona Legislative Session, 1,111 bills posted, six (6) passed, six (6) signed; 96 memorials and resolutions posted and one (1) passed. For the 2nd Special Session: three (3) bills posted, one (1) passed, one (1) signed and one (1) resolution posted.

Please be advised that the presence of a bill on the Council's web page *does not* represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill. It *does* mean that the bill topic is something that is likely to be of interest to or have an impact on Arizona seniors so the Council is tracking the bill's progress.

STATE LEGISLATION:

Visit the link below to view the Council's web page and the list of bills the Council is tracking.

FULL LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=364&listid=13720&print=true>

Highlights of legislative actions taken on bills the Council is tracking include:

S1049: Fingerprint Clearance Cards; Passed Senate as amended; ready for House 5/27/09.

On 5/26/09 all Senate Budget bills as reported last week including ***S1027; S1028; S1029; S1031; S1035; S1036; S1145; S1187; S1188; and S1258*** from Senate Appropriation as amended.

Scheduled Hearings on bills the Council is tracking include:

S1049: Fingerprint Clearance Cards; Hearing: House Health & Human Services; 6/2/09, 10:30 am House Rm. 4.

Reminder: Be sure to check the Arizona State Legislature website for updated Senate, House and Joint Legislative Budget committee agendas at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/CommitteeAgendas.asp?Body=H&ShowAll=OFF>

The website FULL List link provides you with the current status and upcoming hearing information about the bills being tracked by the Council and is available and updated on an ongoing basis, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. *Information about bill status, hearing, etc. is a purchased service provided by the Arizona Capitol Times.*

Reminder: You can contact your policymaker. If you have a particular perspective about budget bills or anything in a piece of legislation that is being considered, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-4331 or toll-free at 800-253-0883

Or you may contact **the legislator from your area**. If you do not know how to reach your local legislator, start at the homepage under *How do I find My Legislators* or follow the instructions provided at both the Senate and House Member links at the website.

Arizona State Legislature website: <http://www.azleg.gov/>

FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

S. 1131/H.R. 2560

Independence at Home Act of 2009

On May 21, 2009, Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Representative Edward J. Markey (D-MA) introduced the Independence at Home Act of 2009.

This bill would amend Title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide chronically ill Medicare patients access to coordinated, primary care medical services in lower cost and more comfortable treatment settings, such as their residences. Sen. Wyden and Rep. Markey are co-chairmen of the Bi-Partisan Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease.

For more information, go to the Thomas website <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and enter the bill number under *Search Bill Summary & Status*.

Today, U. S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced the appointment of Cindy Mann to serve as Director of the Center for Medicaid and State Operations (CMSO), part of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

Contact Your Congressional Member: If you are interested in Congressional bills or wish to share your thoughts or concerns with your federal representatives, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting:

<http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House or

<http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the Senate.

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

WHAT: Arizona Senior Center Association Annual Conference

WHEN: July 18, 2009, Mesa Active Adult Center, 247 North Macdonald Street, Mesa, Arizona 85201

For more information: <http://www.arizonaseniors.net/>

Reminder:

The 2009 employer applications for the Mature Worker Friendly Employer Certification are being accepted until July 15th. The on-line application is posted on the Arizona Mature Worker Website,

<http://www.azmatureworkers.com/default.asp?PageID=10007896>.

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration, you can do so by sending an email with the description to: gaca@az.gov.

Thank you and have a great week!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

Welcome to the Legislative Update for June 4, 2009

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. It is our intent to offer the Legislative Update weekly during the 2009 session of the Arizona State Legislature. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and action taking place at the Legislature. The information provided is intended to help you form your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts to help ensure your perspective and voice are heard. *Please note the Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* We thank you for your interest!

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

2010 Budget:

On Monday, Governor Brewer released her FY 2010 budget proposal. The plan has been widely viewed as a better scenario for human services and vulnerable populations than legislative alternatives. The proposal addresses the increased caseloads state agencies have faced during this economic downturn. The 5-point Long Term Recovery Plan includes those ideas presented to the Legislature in March of this year.

Documents outlining details of the proposal can be found at:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/Budget2010.asp>

In response, the Senate and the House have been working to reach agreement on proposed budget bills. Both reconvened this afternoon. Senate budget bills include **S1027; S1028; S1029; S1031; S1035; S1036; S1145; S1187; S1188; and S1258.** The House package includes: **H2633, H2634, H2635, H2636, H2637, H2638, H2639, H2640, H2641, H2642.**

Note: The Councils **FULL LIST** includes all of the Senate and House budget bills and you can access information on the bills through the link provided in this newsletter. Live proceedings can be viewed through the Arizona State Legislature website at http://azleg.granicus.com/Mediaplayer.php?publish_id=5 or through Arizona Capitol Television available through Cox Cable Channel 123.

The JLBC summary of the House and Senate budget plan can be found at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/HouseSenate6-3.pdf>

At day 144 of the Regular 2009 Arizona Legislative Session, 1,111 bills posted, six (6) passed, six (6) signed; 96 memorials and resolutions posted and one (1) passed. Please be advised that the presence of a bill on the Council's web page *does not* represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill. It *does* mean that the bill topic is something that is likely to be of interest to or have an impact on Arizona seniors so the Council is tracking the bill's progress.

STATE LEGISLATION:

Visit the link below to view the Council's web page and the list of bills the Council is tracking.

FULL LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=364&listid=13720&print=true>

Scheduled Hearings on bills the Council is tracking include:

S1049: *Fingerprint Clearance Cards; Hearing: House Health & Human Services; 6/9/09, 10:30 am House Rm. 4.*

Reminder: Be sure to check the Arizona State Legislature website for updated Senate, House and Joint Legislative Budget committee agendas at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/CommitteeAgendas.asp?Body=H&ShowAll=OFF>

The website FULL List link provides you with the current status and upcoming hearing information about the bills being tracked by the Council and is available and updated on an ongoing basis, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. *Information about bill status, hearing, etc. is a purchased service provided by the Arizona Capitol Times.*

Reminder: You can contact your policymaker. If you have a particular perspective about budget bills or anything in a piece of legislation that is being considered, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-4331 or toll-free at 800-253-0883

Or you may contact **the legislator from your area**. If you do not know how to reach your local legislator, start at the homepage under *How do I find My Legislators* or follow the instructions provided at both the Senate and House Member links at the [website](#).

Arizona State Legislature website: <http://www.azleg.gov/>

FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

S.906

Senior Investment Protection Act of 2009

S.906 was introduced on April 28, 2009, by Senator Herb Kohl (D-WI) with the one co-sponsor on this bill, Senator Claire McCaskill (D-MO).

The purpose of this bill is to protect older Americans from misleading and fraudulent marketing practices with the goal of increasing retirement security.

S.906 directs the Attorney General to establish a program of grants to states to:

- (1) Investigate and prosecute misleading and fraudulent marketing practices; or
- (2) Develop educational materials and training aimed at reducing misleading and fraudulent marketing of financial products toward seniors.

On April 28, 2009, the bill was referred to Senate committee; it was read twice then referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

For more information, go to the Thomas website <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and enter the bill number under *Search Bill Summary & Status*.

Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs announced plans to develop a nationwide program to help older Americans and disabled Veterans with disabilities remain independent in the community.

Read the press release at:

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2009pres/06/20090604a.html>

Contact Your Congressional Member: If you are interested in Congressional bills or wish to share your thoughts or concerns with your federal representatives, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting:

<http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House or
<http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the Senate.

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

Area Agency on Aging, Region One (Maricopa County) can assist adults over 60 or an adult with disabilities in getting and/or installing a Converter Box. For more information, call the 24-hour Senior HELP LINE at 602-264-HELP (4357).

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration, you can do so by sending an email with the description to: gaca@az.gov.

Thank you and have a great week!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

Welcome to the Legislative Update for June 12, 2009

This e-mail is provided weekly as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging during the 2009 session of the Arizona State Legislature. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and action taking place at the Legislature. The information provided is intended to help you form your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts to help ensure your perspective and voice are heard. *Please note the Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* We thank you for your interest!

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

2010 Budget:

The June 30th deadline is only a matter of days away but no FY 2010 budget. The Legislature passed a budget plan late last week, but that plan hasn't been forwarded to the Governor for official action. In the meantime, the Governor held stakeholder meetings on Tuesday to gather input on the legislative budget plan.

To review the budget plans presented:

Governor Brewer's FY 2010 budget proposal package of materials is posted at:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/Budget2010.asp>

The JLBC summaries of the House and Senate budget plan can be found at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/HouseSenate6-3.pdf>

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/housesenatebrbsummaryw-sections060309.pdf>

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/MajorFootnoteChanges6-5-09.pdf>

The House and Senate Democrats budget plan is posted at:

<http://www.strongerarizona.com/>

Legislation:

With only 12 working days/week days left before the end of this fiscal year, the Senate and the House have been *pushing* legislation forward. The following are *a few of the bills* from the Councils FULL List that have seen action this week or will be heard next week.

H2344: *Vulnerable Adults; Financial Exploitation* outlines circumstances allowing use of an incapacitated or vulnerable adult's assets in a manner that is not in the adult's best interest as: only if the superior court gives approval, or the transaction is specifically authorized by power of attorney executed by adult. The bill authorizes the court to withdraw disposition of property or appointment to any fiduciary capacity by the adult to the person guilty of financial exploitation and to sever the

interests of the adult and the guilty person. Definitions regarding financial abuse of vulnerable adults have been modified. To read the entire bill and amendments, go to:

http://www.azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill_Number=HB2344

H2616: *Living Wills; Health Care Directives* outlines that unless a person has a valid living will or has granted a power of attorney to someone else, a health care provider shall not withhold food or fluids except under specific circumstances. To read the entire bill and amendments, go to:

http://www.azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill_Number=HB2616

S1311: *End of Life Options; Right to Know* indicates that if a health care provider determines a patient has a terminal illness and the patient requests it, the provider must provide the patient with information and counseling on end-of-life options. To read the entire bill and related information as posted at the Arizona State Legislature website, go to:

http://www.azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill_Number=SB1311

S1400: *Dental Assistants; Community Oral Health*; this bill expands the list of persons that dental hygienists may perform procedures on to include a person residing in a federally designated health professional shortage area and removes the requirement that those persons receiving services must be 18 years of age or younger. To read the entire bill, go to:

http://www.azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill_Number=SB1400

At day 152 of the Regular 2009 Arizona Legislative Session, 1,111 bills posted, seventeen (17) passed, six (6) signed; 97 memorials and resolutions posted and two (2) passed. Please be advised that the presence of a bill on the Council's web page *does not* represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill. It *does* mean that the bill topic is something that is likely to be of interest to or have an impact on Arizona seniors so the Council is tracking the bill's progress.

STATE LEGISLATION:

Visit the link below to view the Council's web page and the list of bills the Council is tracking.

FULL LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=364&listid=13720&print=true>

Scheduled Hearings on bills the Council is tracking include:

S1400: *Dental Assistants; Community Oral Health* Hearing; Senate Healthcare and Medical Liability Reform; 6/17/09, 9:00 am Senate Rm. 1.

H2283: *Certified Nursing Assistants; Pilot Program*; Hearing; Senate Healthcare and Medical Liability Reform; 6/17/09, 9:00 am Senate Rm. 1.

Reminder: Be sure to check the Arizona State Legislature website for *updated, revised* Senate, House and Joint Legislative Budget committee agendas at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/CommitteeAgendas.asp?Body=H&ShowAll=OFF>

The website FULL List link provides you with the current status and upcoming hearing information about the bills being tracked by the Council and is available and updated on an ongoing basis, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. *Information about bill status, hearing, etc. is a purchased service provided by the Arizona Capitol Times.*

Reminder: You can contact your policymakers. If you have a particular perspective about budget proposals, bills or anything in a piece of legislation that is being considered, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-4331 or toll-free at 800-253-0883

Or you may contact **the legislator from your area**. If you do not know how to reach your local legislator, start at the homepage under *How do I find My Legislators* or follow the instructions provided at both the Senate and House Member links at the website.

Arizona State Legislature website: <http://www.azleg.gov/>

FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

S.801

Family Caregiver Program Act of 2009

S.801 was introduced on 4/2/2009 by Senator Daniel K. Akaka (HI); the nine cosponsors are: Senator Mark Begich (AK), Senator Richard Burr (NC), Senator Patty Murray (WA), Senator John D. Rockefeller (WV), Senator Jon Tester (MT), Senator Sherrod Brown (OH), Senator Roland Burris (IL), Senator Jack Reed (RI), and Senator Olympia J. Snowe (ME).

The bill is intended to amend title 38, United States Code, to waive charges for humanitarian care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs to family members accompanying veterans severely injured after September 11, 2001, as they receive medical care from the Department and to provide assistance to family caregivers, and for other purposes.

S.801 directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to waive charges for care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in emergency cases to attendants

accompanying veterans severely injured while on active duty on or after September 11, 2001, while such veterans are receiving VA care for such injuries.

The bill directs the Secretary, as part of authorized VA home health services for veterans, to furnish family caregiver assistance to family members of veterans in need of personal care services due to a serious injury incurred or aggravated during active duty. Requires the Secretary to:

- (1) evaluate the services needed by each veteran;
- (2) provide training and certification to the caregivers;
- (3) designate a primary personal care attendant for each eligible veteran;
- (4) provide ongoing family caregiver assistance to such family members;
- (5) provide respite care, in appropriate cases;
- (6) pay monthly caregiver stipends;
- (7) conduct oversight of the caregiver assistance program;
- (8) provide program outreach; and
- (9) report on program implementation and evaluation.

S.801 authorizes the provision of VA health care to primary personal care attendants. The bill directs the Secretary to reimburse attendants for travel expenses, including lodging and subsistence, in connection with authorized VA treatment for veterans.

On 5/21/2009 the bill was sent to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 2342

Wounded Warrior Project Family Caregiver Act of 2009

This bill was introduced on 5/11/2009 by Representative Michael H. Michaud (ME-2). The Act directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, as part of authorized Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) home health care services for veterans, to furnish to a family member or other designated individual advanced instruction and training and certification as a family caregiver for a veteran who incurred serious wounds on active duty during, or in training for, Operations Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom and is determined to be in need of personal care services.

The bill requires the Secretary to provide to such caregiver:

- (1) appropriate support services; and
- (2) a monthly family caregiver allowance.

H.R.2342 authorizes the Secretary to provide medical care to such caregiver.

On May 15, 2009, the bill was referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

For more information, go to the Thomas website <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and enter the bill number under *Search Bill Summary & Status*.

The **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services** announced the availability of nearly \$200 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to support student loan repayments for primary care medical, dental, and mental health clinicians who want to work at National Health Service Corps (NHSC) sites.

To learn more about the application process, go to:

<http://nhsc.hrsa.gov/loanrepayment/>

To see the vacancy list per state, visit:

<http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/programs/nhsc/vacancies.html>

Contact Your Congressional Member: If you are interested in Congressional bills or wish to share your thoughts or concerns with your federal representatives, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting:

<http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House or

<http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the Senate.

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

The **Alzheimer's Association** released their 2009 ***Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures***. You can link to the report at:

http://www.alz.org/alzheimers_disease_facts_figures.asp

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration, you can do so by sending an email with the description to: gaca@az.gov.

Thank you and have a great week!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

Welcome to the Legislative Update for June 19, 2009

This e-mail is provided weekly as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging during the 2009 session of the Arizona State Legislature. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and action taking place at the Legislature. The information provided is intended to help you form your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts to help ensure your perspective and voice are heard. *Please note the Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* We thank you for your interest!

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

2010 Budget :

With only a matter of days until the start of a new fiscal year and in response to the Legislative Leadership's decision *not* to send their budget bills forward for official action, the Governor filed a petition with the Arizona Supreme Court to compel the Legislature to transmit the budget package they passed. A copy of that filing can be found at the Governor's website under *Latest News*:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/dms/upload/NR_061609_BrewerVBurnsPetitionSpecialAction.pdf

Several state agencies who provide services for older Arizonans have posted 2010 budget information on their websites outlining potential impacts.

Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System/AHCCCS:

http://www.azahcccs.gov/shared/news.aspx#FY_2010_State_Budget_Reduction_Options

Department of Economic Security:

<https://egov.azdes.gov/cmsinternet/main.aspx?menu=12&id=3726>

Department of Health Services:

<http://www.azdhs.gov/pdf/FY%202010%20Executive%20Budget.pdf>

Legislation :

On Tuesday, the Governor signed **SB1155: Elections; Hospital Districts**: an act authorizing hospital district elections to decide whether to continue an existing secondary property tax to fund the operation and maintenance of hospitals or urgent care centers.

On Thursday, the Legislature passed **H2324 Health Insurance; Individuals; Coverage Exemptions**: a bill that allows health insurers to issue policies to uninsured individuals that are exempt of certain mandated benefits.

The pace has certainly accelerated; the Senate reviewed *more than 200 bills in the first four days of this week*. The following are *a few of the bills* from the Council's FULL List that have seen action this week or are scheduled to be heard next week.

H2283: *Certified Nursing Assistants; Pilot Program*; 6/19/09: the bill was approved in the Senate Committee of the Whole. To read the bill and amendments, go to:

http://www.azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill_Number=HB2283

H2344: *Vulnerable Adults; Financial Exploitation*; The bill was referred to the Senate Public Safety & Human Services Committee on 6/18/09. To read the entire bill and amendments, go to:

http://www.azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill_Number=HB2344

S1400: *Dental Assistants; Community Oral Health*; 6/19/09: this bill was approved in the Senate Committee of the Whole as amended. S1400 allows affiliated practice dental hygienists to perform dental hygiene procedures on adults. To read the entire bill and amendments, go to:

http://www.azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill_Number=SB1400

At day 159 of the Regular 2009 Arizona Legislative Session, 1,111 bills posted, eighteen (18) passed, seven (7) signed; 98 memorials and resolutions posted and two (2) passed. Please be advised that the presence of a bill on the Council's web page *does not* represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill. It *does* mean that the bill topic is something that is likely to be of interest to or have an impact on Arizona seniors so the Council is tracking the bill's progress.

STATE LEGISLATION:

Visit the link below to view the Council's web page and the list of bills the Council is tracking.

FULL LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=364&listid=13720&print=true>

Scheduled Hearings on bills the Council is tracking include:

S1098: *Direct Care Workers; Health Care Directives;* Hearing: Senate Healthcare & Medical Liability Reform, 6/24/09, 9:00 am, Senate Rm. 1.

H2344: *Vulnerable Adults; Financial Exploitation;* Hearing: Senate Judiciary, 6/22/09, 1:30 pm, Senate Rm. 1. Hearing: Senate Public Safety & Human Services, 6/24/09, 8:30 am, Senate Rm. 3.

H2399: *Automated External Defibrillators;* Hearing: Senate Healthcare & Medical Liability Reform, 6/24/09, 9:00 am, Senate Rm. 1.

H2622: *Dependent Children; Relatives; Disclosure;* Hearing: Senate Public Safety & Human Services, 6/24/09, 8:30 am, Senate Rm. 3.

Reminder: Be sure to check the Arizona State Legislature website for *updated, revised* Senate, House and Joint Legislative Budget committee agendas at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/CommitteeAgendas.asp?Body=H&ShowAll=OFF>

The website FULL List link provides you with the current status and upcoming hearing information about the bills being tracked by the Council and is available and updated on an ongoing basis, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. *Information about bill status, hearing, etc. is a purchased service provided by the Arizona Capitol Times.*

Reminder: You can contact your policymakers. If you have a particular perspective about budget proposals, bills or anything in a piece of legislation that is being considered, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-4331 or toll-free at 800-253-0883

Or you may contact **the legislator from your area**. If you do not know how to reach your local legislator, start at the homepage under *How do I find My Legislators* or follow the instructions provided at both the Senate and House Member links at the website.

Arizona State Legislature website : <http://www.azleg.gov/>

FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

S.1257

Project 2020: Building on the Promise of Home-and-Community-Based Services Act of 2009

S.1257 was introduced on June 11, 2009 by Senator Maria Cantwell (WA) with one co-sponsor, Senator Debbie Stabenow (MI).

Project 2020: Building on the Promise of Home-and-Community-Based Services Act of 2009 amends the Social Security Act to build on the aging network to establish long-term services and supports through:

- single-entry point systems
- evidence-based disease prevention and health promotion programs
- enhanced nursing home diversion programs

On June 11, 2009, the bill was read twice then referred to the Committee on the Finance.

For more information specific to S.1257, go to the Thomas website <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and enter the bill number under *Search Bill Summary & Status*.

To access the **Project 2020 report** and a join **legislative summary** by the **National Association of State Units on Aging (NASUA)** and the **National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a)**, go to:

<http://www.n4a.org/files/advocacy/campaigns/policy-priority-09.pdf#page=3>

As follow up to an earlier report, **The Elder Justice Act (S.795/H.R. 2006)** was the focus of a Capitol Hill briefing yesterday sponsored by Rep. King (R-NY). Aging advocates are encouraging the inclusion of the Act into health reform because older victims of abuse and exploitation often suffer declining health after the abuse.

Contact Your Congressional Member: If you are interested in Congressional bills or wish to share your thoughts or concerns with your federal representatives, find out how to contact your congressional

representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House or <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the Senate.

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

WHAT: Arizona Senior Center Association Annual Conference

WHEN: July 18, 2009, Mesa Active Adult Center, 247 North Macdonald Street, Mesa, Arizona 85201

For more information: <http://www.arizonaseniors.net/>

Just in time for Father's Day!

Health e-Cards for Father's Day from AHRQ

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality encourages you to show your Dad how much you care. "Encourage your Dad to talk with his doctor about the preventive tests he needs to get and when he needs to get them. Send a health e-card to remind someone special in your life how important their health is to you. Visit <http://www.ahrq.gov/> and look for the Health e-Card image in the upper right corner to customize and send your Fathers Day Health e-Card. Your Dads health is important, so encourage him to take the time to get the tests he needs, so that you can celebrate many more Father's Days with him for years to come."

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration, you can do so by sending an email with the description to: gaca@az.gov.

Thank you and have a great week!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

Welcome to the Legislative Update for June 26, 2009

This e-mail is provided weekly as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging during the 2009 session of the Arizona State Legislature. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and action taking place at the Legislature. The information provided is intended to help you form your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts to help ensure your perspective and voice are heard. *Please note the Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* We thank you for your interest!

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

2010 Budget:

Budget negotiations are being reported as *having reached agreement* but details are pending. You can access any posted statements by the Governor, as issued, at the website under *Latest News*:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/>

The House Committee on Appropriations special meeting agenda for tomorrow, Saturday, June 27th, includes twelve striker bills potentially for budget trailer bills: HB 2643 through H2653 as well as HCR2037. These have been added to the Councils FULL List for your convenience in tracking actions taken in the next few days.

The resulting impact of any final budget agreement to state agencies and services is not fully known at this time. State agencies have been preparing contingency plans with the hope that a fiscal year 2010 budget will be passed and signed by July 1st and avoid a potential shut down.

On Wednesday, Governor Brewer announced Arizona was one of the first 10 states to receive federal stimulus dollars for state energy plans. View the press release at:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/dms/upload/PR_062409_State%20Energy%20Program%20Funding.pdf

Legislation:

Bills are being heard and moving forward in a rapid fire pace amid concerns voiced by legislators and constituents alike on the lack of time to fully consider the proposed legislation. The following are *a few of the bills from the Councils FULL List* that have seen action this week or are being heard today, tomorrow or next week.

Bills Passed:

H2091: Charitable Organization; Solicitations; Disclosure

H2283: Certified Nursing Assistants; Pilot Program

H2399: Automated External Defibrillators

H2616: Living Wills; Health Care Directives

H2622 Dependent Children; Relatives; Disclosure

Note: These bills are all found on the FULL List web report.

H2344: Vulnerable Adults; Financial Exploitation: the bill passed from the Senate Rules Committee. To read the entire bill and amendments, go to:

http://www.azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill_Number=HB2344

S1098: *Direct Care Workers; Health Care Directives; 6/26/09: from Senate Rules Committee with tech amendment.*

http://www.azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill_Number=SB1098

S1400: *Dental Assistants; Community Oral Health; 6/26/09: approved in House Committee of the Whole. To read the entire bill and amendments, go to:*

http://www.azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill_Number=SB1400

At 6 pm on day 166 of the Regular 2009 Arizona Legislative Session, 1,133 bills posted, 70 passed, seven (7) signed; 101 memorials and resolutions posted and four (4) passed. Please be advised that the presence of a bill on the Council's web page *does not* represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill. It *does* mean that the bill topic is something that is likely to be of interest to or have an impact on Arizona seniors so the Council is tracking the bill's progress.

STATE LEGISLATION:

Visit the link below to view the Council's web page and the list of bills the Council is tracking.

FULL LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=364&listid=13720&print=true>

Reminder: Be sure to check the Arizona State Legislature website for *updated, revised* Senate, House and Joint Legislative Budget committee agendas at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/CommitteeAgendas.asp?Body=H&ShowAll=OFF>

The website FULL List link provides you with the current status and upcoming hearing information about the bills being tracked by the Council and is available and updated on an ongoing basis, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. *Information about bill status, hearing, etc. is a purchased service provided by the Arizona Capitol Times.*

Reminder: You can still contact your policymakers. If you have a particular perspective about budget proposals, bills or anything in a piece of legislation that is being considered, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-4331 or toll-free at 800-253-0883

Or you may contact **the legislator from your area**. If you do not know how to reach your local legislator, start at the homepage under *How do I find My Legislators* or follow the instructions provided at both the Senate and House Member links at the website.

Arizona State Legislature website: <http://www.azleg.gov/>

FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

H.R.2460

Healthy Families Act

H.R. 2460 was introduced on 5/18/2009 by Representative Rosa L. DeLauro (CT-3); there are 105 cosponsors.

The intent of the bill is to allow Americans to earn paid sick time so that they can address their own health needs and the health needs of their families.

Healthy Families Act - Requires certain employers, who employ 15 or more employees for each working day during 20 or more workweeks a year, to permit each employee to earn at least one hour of paid sick time for every 30 hours worked.

H.R.2460:

Declares that an employer shall not be required to permit an employee to earn more than 56 hours of paid sick time in a calendar year, unless the employer chooses to set a higher limit.

Allows employees to use such time to:(1) meet their own medical needs; (2) care for the medical needs of certain family members; or (3) seek medical attention, assist a related person, take legal action, or engage in other specified activities relating to domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

Prohibits an employer from interfering with an employee's exercise of such rights.

Directs the Secretary of Labor to exercise certain investigative and enforcement authority for employees covered by the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 or the Government Employee Rights Act of 1991. Grants the same authority, for employees under their jurisdiction, to the Librarian of Congress, the Comptroller General, the Board of Directors of the congressional Office of Compliance, and the Merit Systems Protection Board.

Authorizes civil actions by employees, individuals, or their representatives for damages or equitable relief against employers who violate this Act.

Waives a state's sovereign immunity with respect to a suit brought by an employee of a federally-assisted state program or activity for relief authorized under this Act.

Requires the Commissioner of Labor Statistics annually to compile information annually on paid sick time, and the Comptroller General to study related matters.

Declares that nothing in this Act shall be construed to discourage employers from adopting or retaining more generous leave policies.

On 5/18/09 the bill was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, and House Administration for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

S.1152, related legislation, was introduced on 5/21/09 Senate by Senator Edward Kennedy and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.

For more information specific to these bills, go to the Thomas website
<http://thomas.loc.gov/> and enter the bill numbers under *Search Bill Summary & Status*.

Administration on Aging recently announced the confirmation of Kathy J. Greenlee as Assistant Secretary for Aging at the Department of Health and Human Services. The press release is posted at:

http://www.aoa.gov/AoAroot/Press_Room/News/2009/06_26_09.aspx

Contact Your Congressional Member: If you are interested in Congressional bills or wish to share your thoughts or concerns with your federal representatives, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House or <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the Senate.

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

WHAT: Arizona Geriatrics Society, *Transcultural Aspects of Aging & Healthcare*
WHEN: Tuesday, August 18, 2009, 7:30 am 4:45 pm, Mesa Convention Center, 263 North Center Street, Mesa, AZ 85201

For more information:

<http://www.arizonageriatrics.org/mc/page.do?sitePageId=90747>

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration, you can do so by sending an email with the description to: gaca@az.gov.

Thank you and have a great week!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

Welcome to the Legislative Update for July 2, 2009

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and action taking place at the Arizona State Legislature and to highlight Congressional bills or happenings affecting older Americans. This information is intended to help you shape your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts so that you can ensure your perspective and voice are heard. *The Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* We thank you for your interest!

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

2010 Budget:

In the early hours of the new fiscal year, the House and Senate passed the 2010 budget bills. In the end, the budget package did not include the Governor's tax referral as requested. The Legislature adjourned sine die at 7:31 am on July 1st.

The Joint Legislative Budget Committee reports on the 2010 budget bills can be found at:

Budget Summary

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/budgetlegislationsummary070109.pdf>

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/HouseSenate6-30.pdf>

Later Wednesday, the Governor vetoed budget bills HB2645-HB2650, SB1028, SB1029, SB1031, SB1035, SB 1036, SB1145, S1187, SB 1258, signed SB1188 and trailer bill HB2643 with line item vetoes, then called for a Third Special Session of the 49th Legislature to begin on Monday, July 6th. In her statement regarding the vetoes and the call for a special session she indicated her intent to see the process through to a prudent budget that neither over-spends nor under-funds. To read the entire statement, go to:

http://www.governor.state.az.us/dms/upload/PR_070109_GovBrewerBudgetStatement.pdf

Note: The signing of SB1188 with line item vetoes by Governor Brewer avoided a shutdown of government services yet eliminated lump sum reductions to several agencies serving older and vulnerable adults.

To view Governor Brewer's letters regarding the veto and signing of bills with line item vetoes, visit the *Latest News section at the website.*

<http://www.governor.state.az.us/>

Legislation:

The following are highlighted bills tracked this session on *the Councils FULL List* that were passed and forwarded to the Governor.

Bills Passed:

H2283: Certified Nursing Assistants; Pilot Program; pilot program allowing certified nursing assistants to administer certain medications originally scheduled to expire on Oct 1, 2009 is extended for two years to October 1, 2011.

H2344: Vulnerable Adults; Financial Exploitation; expands the civil penalties for committing financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult or theft. Includes a person who is in a confidential relationship with a vulnerable adult to the definition of *position of trust and confidence*.

H2399: Automated External Defibrillators; removes a number of requirements related to physician oversight of automated external defibrillators (AEDs).

H2616: Living Wills; Health Care Directives; establishes notification requirements for guardians who intend to consent to the removal of the artificial administration of food or fluid from their wards, and provides standards for legal challenges by those notified about the guardians decisions.

S1400: Dental Hygienists; Public Agencies; makes changes to the statutes that govern affiliated dental practice settings and eliminates requirement of working on persons no older than 18.

The complete report of all the bills tracked by the Council can be found at the web report link provided in this newsletter.

The final tally on day 170 of the Regular 2009 Arizona Legislative Session: 1,133 bills posted, 212 passed, 15 vetoed, 12 signed; 101 memorials and resolutions posted and 12 passed.

(Watching the live proceedings at the Legislature earlier this week was a little bit like running a marathon while listening to an auctioneer read bills and amendments. A lot of stamina and a keen sense of hearing were required.)

FYI

We intend to continue providing the Legislative Update through the Third Special Session tracking the state 2010 budget process. Once the special session has ended, the Legislative Update will be provided monthly with a federal focus.

Please be advised that the presence of a bill on the Council's final web report *does not* represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill. It *does* mean that the bill topic was something that was likely to be of interest to or have an impact on Arizona seniors so the Council tracked the bill's progress.

Here is the final report on the bills tracked by the Council during the regular session of the 49th Legislature.

FULL LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=364&listid=13720&print=true>

During the Third Special Session: You can still contact your policymakers. If you have a particular perspective about budget proposals being considered, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-4331 or toll-free at 800-253-0883

Or you may contact **the legislator from your area**. If you do not know how to reach your local legislator, start at the homepage under *How do I find My Legislators* or follow the instructions provided at both the Senate and House Member links at the website.

Arizona State Legislature website: <http://www.azleg.gov/>

FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

H.R.2909

Title: To amend title XI of the Social Security Act to provide for an improved method to measure poverty so as to enable a better assessment of the effects of programs under the Social Security Act, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2909 was introduced on June 17, 2009 by Representative Jim McDermott (WA-7) with five cosponsors.

The purpose of the Act is to provide for an improved and updated method for measuring the extent to which families and individuals in the United States have sufficient income to allow a minimal level of consumption spending that meets their basic physical needs, including food, shelter (including utilities), clothing, and other necessary items, in order to better assess the effects of certain policies and programs in reducing the prevalence and depth of poverty, to accurately gauge the level of economic deprivation, and to improve understanding of the targeting of public resources, without directly affecting the distribution of, or eligibility for, any Federal benefits or assistance.

On 6/17/09 the bill was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

For more information specific to this bill, go to the Thomas website <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and enter the bill numbers under *Search Bill Summary & Status*.

Contact Your Congressional Member: If you are interested in Congressional bills or wish to share your thoughts or concerns with your federal representatives, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House or <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the Senate.

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

WHAT: Arizona Geriatrics Society, *Transcultural Aspects of Aging & Healthcare*
WHEN: Tuesday, August 18, 2009, 7:30 am 4:45 pm, Mesa Convention Center, 263
North Center Street, Mesa, AZ 85201
For more information:
<http://www.arizonageriatrics.org/mc/page.do?sitePageId=90747>

WHAT: Arizona Health Care Association Annual Conference & Trade Show, *Back to the Future Embracing the Past...Envisioning the Future*
WHEN: August 25-27, 2009, Renaissance Glendale Hotel, Glendale Arizona
For more information and to register: www.azhca.org/events

The **Arizona Department of Housing** has scheduled the following Constituent Forums to allow for public comment on the Five Year Consolidated Plan (2010-2014).

FLAGSTAFF Wednesday, July 15, 2009
Flagstaff City Council Chambers
211 W. Aspen Avenue
Flagstaff, AZ 86001
1:00 pm- 3:00 pm

LAKE HAVASU CITY Thursday, July 16, 2009
Lake Havasu Aquatic Center
100 Park Avenue, Room 155
Lake Havasu, AZ 86403
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

SIERRA VISTA Wednesday, August 12, 2009
Sierra Vista City Hall
1011 N. Coronado Drive
Sierra Vista, AZ 85635
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

PHOENIX Tuesday, September 15, 2009
The Buttes Marriott Resort
2000 Westcourt Way
Tempe, AZ 85282
1:30 pm - 2:45 pm

The Phoenix Forum is scheduled as a session at the 2009 GOVERNOR'S HOUSING FORUM.

The public is invited to attend this session only at no fee.

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration, you can do so by sending an email with the description to: gaca@az.gov.

Thank you and have a safe, enjoyable Fourth of July weekend!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

Welcome to the Legislative Update for July 10, 2009

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and actions taking place at the Arizona State Legislature and to highlight Congressional bills or happenings affecting older Americans. This information is intended to help you shape your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts so that you can ensure your perspective and voice are heard. *The Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* Thank you for your interest!

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

2010 Budget:

On Monday, the Legislature convened in the Third Special Session called by the Governor. Four bills restoring education funding, stimulus funding were passed then signed by the Governor later this week: HB2001, HB2002, HB2003, and HB2004. Considerable work lies ahead to close the gap between revenues and the ever-increasing budget deficit. To get a sense of the situation, the following links are provided.

Governor Brewer's statement regarding the signing of the four bills:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/dms/upload/NR_070809_Third%20Special%20Session%20Bills.pdf

The Joint Legislative Budget Committee July 9th report on the 2010 budget:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/7-6%20impact%20of%20vetoes%20slides.pdf>

Legislation:

Governor Brewer signed a series of bills this week from the Regular Session of the 49th Legislature. A link to the Summary of Enactment posted on the Governor's website, as of 7/9/09, is provided here:

http://www.governor.state.az.us/dms/upload/PR_070909_Summary%20of%20Enactments.pdf

You can track the final disposition of the bills at the Arizona State Legislature website:

<http://www.azleg.gov/FinalDisposition.asp>

Check the status of bills tracked by the Council on Aging during the Regular Session at the FULL LIST web report link:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=364&listid=13720&print=true>

The following bills from the Councils FULL List passed and were signed this week:

HB 2399: Automated External Defibrillators, maintaining, testing, and reporting on the use of automated external defibrillators are the responsibility of the person or entity that acquires a defibrillator instead of a physician who agrees to oversee the defibrillator.

SB 1009: Board of Fingerprinting; Hearings, good cause exception that may be granted to an applicant for employment required by statute to obtain a fingerprint clearance card from the Board of Fingerprinting may be denied if the applicant fails to appear at a good cause exception Board hearing; the Board may ask for disclosure of evidence regarding substantiated cases of abuse or neglect of *vulnerable adults*.

The following bills from the FULL List are awaiting signature:

HB2283: Certified Nursing Assistants; Pilot Program

HB2344: Vulnerable Adults; Financial Exploitation

HB2616: Living Wills; Health Care Directives

S1400: Dental Hygienists; Public Agencies

FYI

We intend to continue providing the Legislative Update through the Third Special Session tracking the state 2010 budget process. Once the special session has ended, the Legislative Update will be provided monthly with a federal focus.

During the Third Special Session: You can still contact your policymakers. If you have a particular perspective about budget proposals being considered, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-4331 or toll-free at 800-253-0883

Or you may contact **the legislator from your area**. If you do not know how to reach your local legislator, start at the homepage under *How do I find My Legislators* or follow the instructions provided at both the Senate and House Member links at the website.

Arizona State Legislature website: <http://www.azleg.gov/>

FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

S.1251 and S.1263

Titles: A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for advanced illness care management services for Medicare beneficiaries and for other purposes.

S.1251 was introduced on June 6, 2009 and S.1263 was introduced on June 15, 2009 by Senator Mark R. Warner (D-VA). Known as the Senior Navigation and Planning Act of 2009, the intent of these bills is to strengthen counseling, support services and care management for patients and families coping with life-limiting illnesses.

On 6/11/2009 S.1251 and on 6/15/09 S.1263 were referred to the Committee on Finance, respectively.

For more information specific to these bills, go to the Thomas website <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and enter the bill numbers under *Search Bill Summary & Status*.

Contact Your Congressional Member: If you are interested in Congressional bills or wish to share your thoughts or concerns with your federal representatives, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House or <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the Senate.

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

WHAT: Together We Care: Arizona Conference on Caregiving

WHEN: Thursday, November 5, 2009, North Phoenix Baptist Church, 5757 N. Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85012

For more information, email: cleary@gatewaycc.edu or call (602) 286-8153

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration, you can do so by sending an email with the description to: gaca@az.gov.

Thank you and have a great week!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

Welcome to the Legislative Update for July 16, 2009

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and actions taking place at the Arizona State Legislature and to highlight Congressional bills or happenings affecting older Americans. This information is intended to help you shape your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts so that you can ensure your perspective and voice are heard. *The Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* Thank you for your interest!

Please note: the next issue of the Legislative Update will be distributed during the last week of July.

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

2010 Budget:

No 2010 budget to date. On Monday afternoon, the House and Senate reconvened but no significant developments resulted to report. The Legislature is adjourned until Monday, July 20th.

The general fund shortfall is estimated at more than \$2 billion.

To review the monthly fiscal reports provided by the JLBC, go to:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/monthlyhighlights.htm>

Legislation:

To help track legislation during the Third Special Session, the Council has created the 3rd Special Session List. You can access this list at below.

3rd Special Session List:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=471&listid=16365&print=true>

Monday, July 13th was the last day for Governor Brewer to sign or veto bills from the Regular Session of the 49th Legislature. A link to the Final Summary of Enactment posted on the Governors website is provided here:

http://www.governor.state.az.us/dms/upload/PR_071309_Final%20Summary%20of%20Enactments_v2.pdf

Here are a few of the bills from the Councils FULL List passed and signed into law *since the last Legislative Update*:

HB2091: Charitable Organizations; Solicitations; Disclosure

HB2283: Certified Nursing Assistants; Pilot Program

HB2344: Vulnerable Adults; Financial Exploitation

HB2399: Automated External Defibrillators

HB2616: Living Wills; Health Care Directives

HB2622: Dependent Children; Relatives; Disclosure

S1400: Dental Hygienists; Public Agencies

You can check the final report of all bills tracked by the Council on Aging during the last Session at the **FULL LIST** *web report link*:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=364&listid=13720&print=true>

FYI

We intend to continue providing the Legislative Update through the Third Special Session tracking the state 2010 budget process. Once the special session has ended, the Legislative Update will be provided monthly with a federal focus.

During the Third Special Session: You can still contact your

policymakers. If you have a particular perspective about budget proposals being considered, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-4331 or toll-free at 800-253-0883

Or you may contact **the legislator from your area**. If you do not know how to reach your local legislator, start at the homepage under *How do I find My Legislators* or follow the instructions provided at both the Senate and House Member links at the website.

Arizona State Legislature website: <http://www.azleg.gov/>

FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

H.R.3043

Medicare Adult Day Care Services Act of 2009

The bill was introduced on 6/25/2009 by Representative Linda T. Sanchez (CA-39); the six cosponsors include: Representative Charles A. Gonzalez (TX-20), Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee (TX-18), Representative James P. McGovern (MA-3), Representative Ron Paul (TX-14), Representative Donald M. Payne (NJ-10), and Representative Albio Sires (NJ-13)

The purpose of H.R. 3043 is to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of substitute adult day care services under the Medicare Program.

On June 25, 2009, the bill was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

For more information specific to this bill, go to the Thomas website <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and enter the bill number under *Search Bill Summary & Status*.

Other News:

From the Kaiser Family Foundation:

Side by Side Comparison of Major Health Care Reform Proposals

<http://www.kff.org/healthreform/sidebyside.cfm>

From the National Association of State Units on Aging:

The House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman James L. Oberstar released a white paper on June 18th outlining plans for the new surface transportation authorization bill being drafted. The authorization bill will replace the current SAFETEA-LU which is due to expire on September 30. The Surface Transportation Act of 2009 redefines the federal role and restructures the federal surface transportation by either consolidating or terminating more than 75 programs. The consolidation creates Highway and

Transit funding, each of which have four program categories. Within transit funding, one of the program categories is providing mobility and access to transit-dependent individuals. Many of the current programs that assist aging Americans and individuals with disabilities are slated for consolidation into the access and mobility program or termination.

Programs slated for consolidation into the mobility and access program include: ADA Project Action, Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities Program Section 5310, Job Access and Reverse Commute Program, and National Technical Assistance Center for Senior Transportation. Programs slated for termination include: the Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities pilot program and Medical Transportation Demonstration Grants.

More information is available at: <http://transportation.house.gov/>

From the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services:

Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius recently released the second in a series of health care success story reports that document innovative programs and initiatives that can serve as models for a reformed American health care system.

The press release can be found at:

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2009pres/07/20090715a.html>

Secretary Sebelius also announced the goal to create Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) in every state. This goal is set in accordance with President Obama's proclamation of the Year of Community Living. This funding opportunity will expand ADRCs across the country. The new funding will build on and expand the existing pilots and ensure that every state can offer this program and its services to their citizens.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2009pres/06/20090622b.html>

Also: States eligible to receive grant funding for H1N1, Seasonal Flu Preparedness Efforts

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2009pres/07/20090710a.html>

Contact Your Congressional Member: If you are interested in Congressional bills or wish to share your thoughts or concerns with your federal representatives, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House or <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the Senate.

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

WHAT: City of Sedona Senior Resource Fair

WHEN: Monday, October 12, 2009, 9 am 2 pm, Yavapai College, Sedona Campus, SR89A and Cultural Park Place

For more information contact: Anne Leap at ALeap@SedonaAZ.gov

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration, you can do so by sending an email with the description to: gaca@az.gov.

Thank you and have a great week!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

Welcome to the Legislative Update for July 31, 2009

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and actions taking place at the Arizona State Legislature and to highlight Congressional bills or happenings affecting older Americans. This information is intended to help you shape your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts so that you can ensure your perspective and voice are heard. *The Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* Thank you for your interest!

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

2010 Budget:

No 2010 budget at this time despite actions taken this week to reach an agreement. Those budget bills seeing legislative action include SB 10201029 and HB 2006-2015 which have been added to the Council's Third Special Session list. The budget bill packages include a combination of measures such as program cuts and lump sum cuts to state agencies to offset the growing deficit.

To view the 7/31/09 Budget Plan Summary from the Joint Legislative Budget Committee, go to:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/BudgetPlanSummary073109.pdf>

Legislation:

To help track legislation during the Third Special Session, the Council created the 3rd Special Session List which is being updated according to legislative actions.

3rd Special Session List:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=471&listid=16365&print=true>

FYI

Once the special session has ended, the Legislative Update will be provided monthly with a federal focus.

During the Third Special Session: You can still contact your policymakers. If you have a particular perspective about budget proposals being considered, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-4331 or toll-free at 800-253-0883

Or you may **contact the legislator from your area**. If you do not know how to reach your local legislator, start at the homepage under *How do I find My Legislators* or follow the instructions provided at both the Senate and House Member links at the website.

Arizona State Legislature website: <http://www.azleg.gov/>

FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

H.R.2688

Title: Empowered at Home Act of 2009

The bill was introduced on June 3, 2009 by Representative Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ-6); the four cosponsors are: Representative Lois Capps (CA-23), Representative Diane DeGette (CO-1), Representative Yvette Clark (NY-11) and Representative Donald M. Payne (NJ-10).

H.R. 2688 amends title XIX (Medicaid) of the Social Security Act (SSA) to revise the income eligibility level for home and community-based (HCBS) services for elderly and disabled individuals.

The bill:

- Revises the income eligibility limit for the state option to provide HCBS services under a waiver. Replaces the income limit of 150% of the poverty line with a limit of 300% of the supplemental security income (SSI) benefit rate.
- Authorizes a state to offer HCBS services under a waiver to eligible individuals that differ in type, amount, duration, or scope from the HCBS waiver services offered to other such individuals so long as they are within the scope of services for which the Secretary has authority to approve a waiver and do not include room or board.
- Increases the federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) for the provision of HCBS services under Medicaid through the state plan amendment option.
- Directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to report annually to Congress on state use of Medicaid state plan amendment option for HCBS services for elderly and disabled individuals.
- Directs the Secretary to award assistance grants to states electing to provide HCBS waiver services under Medicaid through the state plan amendment option.
- Reauthorizes Medicaid investment grants (currently called transformation grants) at increased funding and specifies additional permissible uses to facilitate the provision of HCBS and other long-term care (LTC) services.
- Directs the Secretary to award grants on a competitive basis to eligible states to conduct an evidence- and community-based health promotion program.
- Amends SSA title XIX, with respect to treatment of the income and resources of HCBS waiver services recipients who would otherwise be institutionalized, to repeal the state option for (thus requiring) application to such individuals of spousal impoverishment protection requirements.
- Requires states to exclude up to six months of the average cost of nursing facility services from an individual's assets or resources for purposes of eligibility for HCBS waiver services.
- Directs the Secretary, acting through the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, to revise certain data reporting forms and systems to ensure uniform and consistent state reporting under this Act.
- Directs the Comptroller General to study and report to Congress on: (1) the provision of home health services under different state Medicaid plans; and (2) the extent to which states offer consumer self-direction of such services, or allow for other consumer-oriented policies with respect to them.

On 6/30/09, the bill was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

For more information on this bill, go to the Thomas Website <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and enter the bill number under *Search Bill Summary & Status*.

Other News:

From the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services:
Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius recently reported that the U.S. has joined 141 other nations in signing off on the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*.

The press release can be found at:

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2009pres/07/20090730a.html>

Information on Seasonal Flu:

<http://www.flu.gov/vaccine/vacresearch.html#campaign>

Contact Your Congressional Member: If you are interested in Congressional bills or wish to share your thoughts or concerns with your federal representatives, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov> for members of the House or <http://www.senate.gov> for members of the Senate.

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

From DES Division of Aging and Adult Services: The **Direct Care Workforce** has posted revised competencies at <http://www.azdirectcare.org/>. To access the latest updates, go to the *Competencies* page.

WHAT: Arizona Geriatrics Society, *Transcultural Aspects of Aging & Healthcare*

WHEN: Tuesday, August 18, 2009, 7:30 am 4:45 pm, Mesa Convention Center, 263 North Center Street, Mesa, AZ 85201

For more information:

<http://www.arizonageriatrics.org/mc/page.do?sitePageId=90747>

WHAT: Arizona Health Care Association Annual Conference & Trade Show, *Back to the Future Embracing the Past, Envisioning the Future*

WHEN: August 25-27, 2009, Renaissance Glendale Hotel, Glendale Arizona

For more information and to register: www.azhca.org/events

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration, you can do so by sending an email with the description to: gaca@az.gov.

Thank you and have a great week!
~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

Welcome to the Legislative Update for August 7, 2009

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and actions taking place at the Arizona State Legislature and to highlight Congressional bills or happenings affecting older Americans. This information is intended to help you shape your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts so that you can ensure your perspective and voice are heard. *The Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* Thank you for your interest!

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

2010 Budget:

No 2010 budget. Both the House and the Senate convened today but adjourned until Monday, August 10th at 1:00 p.m. The deadline to pass a bill that would set a November special election for the sales tax increase appears to be next week, now. To review the budget bills, look for SB 1020-1029 and HB 2006-2015 on the Councils Third Special Session list provided under Legislation below.

To view the latest **Monthly Fiscal Highlights** report from the Joint Legislative Budget Committee outlining the current revenue shortfall, go to:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/mfh-jul-09.pdf>

Legislation:

To help track legislation during the Third Special Session, the Council created the 3rd Special Session List which is being updated according to legislative actions.

3rd Special Session List:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=471&listid=16365&print=true>

Other News

Governor Brewer announced the use of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds for Arizona's State Energy Plan. To read more, go to:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/dms/upload/PR_080709_StateEnergyProgram.pdf

Other ***Latest News*** can be viewed at the Governors Website:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/>

FYI

Once the special session has ended, the Legislative Update will be provided monthly with a federal focus.

During the Third Special Session: You can still contact your policymakers. If you have a particular perspective about budget proposals being considered, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-4331 or toll-free at 800-253-0883

Or you may **contact the legislator from your area**. If you do not know how to reach your local legislator, start at the homepage under *How do I find My Legislators* or follow the instructions provided at both the Senate and House Member links at the website.

Arizona State Legislature website: <http://www.azleg.gov/>

FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

S.728

Veterans' Insurance and Benefits Enhancement Act of 2009

The bill was introduced on 3/26/2009 by Senator Daniel K. Akaka (HI).

S.728 is intended to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance veterans' insurance benefits, and for other purposes.

The bill:

- Directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to grant level-premium term life insurance to veterans under age 65 with service-connected disabilities.
- Increases from \$20,000 to \$30,000 the maximum amount of supplemental insurance provided through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for totally disabled veterans.
- Removes a condition on the qualification of certain individuals for retroactive benefits from traumatic injury coverage under Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance.
- Increases the maximum loan guarantee amount under the veterans' mortgage life insurance program from \$90,000 to \$150,000, then to \$200,000 after January 1, 2012.
- Establishes an annual cost-of-living adjustment for the temporary payment of dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) to a veteran's surviving spouse with one or more children under the age of 18.
- Provides eligibility requirements for the payment of a special monthly pension based on disability for veterans who already qualify for a service pension based upon age.
- Increases amounts of DIC payable to surviving spouses and parents of deceased veterans.
- Increases, and authorizes the annual adjustment of, pension amounts payable to hospitalized veterans and certain children of veterans of a period of war.
- Authorizes and directs the Secretary to pay a: (1) supplemental benefit for the funeral and burial expenses of veterans, making such amount \$900 with respect to a non-service-connected death and \$2,100 with respect to a service-connected death; and (2) supplemental burial plot allowance for veterans eligible for the current allowance.
- Authorizes the provision of specially adapted housing assistance for disabled veterans whose disability is due to a severe burn injury.
- Authorizes the Secretary to pay a supplemental benefit, for assistance in the purchase of automobiles and other conveyances, for disabled veterans currently eligible for such assistance.

On 5/21/2009, S.728 was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 3293, which makes appropriations for the U.S. Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, was placed on the Senate Legislative Calendar on August 4, 2009. As taken from the House Reports 111-220, here are a few **recommendations** that may be of interest:

National Health Service Corps: Recruitment - The Committee provides \$102,114,000 for NHSC recruitment activities. The NHSC program awards scholarships to health professions students and assists graduates in repaying their student loans.

Geriatric Programs - The Geriatric Programs are comprised of three activities: (1) Geriatric Education Centers; (2) the Geriatric Training Program for physicians, dentists, and behavioral health professionals; and (3) Geriatric Academic Career Awards. This funding will support 54 Geriatric Education Centers, 14 Geriatric Training grants, and 98 Geriatric Academic Career Awards.

Comprehensive Geriatric Nurse Education - The Committee provides \$4,567,000 for Comprehensive Geriatric Nurse Education. The Comprehensive Geriatric Nurse Education program supports grants for: (1) providing training to individuals who will provide geriatric care; (2) develop and disseminate curricula relating to the treatment of the health care problems of elderly individuals; (3) train faculty members in geriatrics; and (4) provide continuing education to individuals who provide geriatric care. In fiscal year 2010, 27 training projects are expected to be funded.

Oral Health - The Committee recognizes that reducing disparities in oral disease will require additional and sustained support in proven strategies at the State and local levels. The Committee provides funding for States to strengthen their capacities to assess the prevalence of oral diseases and the associated health burden, to target resources and interventions and prevention programs to the underserved, and to evaluate changes in policies and programs. The Committee encourages CDC to advance efforts to reduce the health disparities and burden from oral diseases, including those that are linked to chronic diseases.

Home and Community-Based Supportive Services - The Committee provides \$371,348,000 for Home and Community- Based Supportive Services. States allocate funds based on local needs, funding services such as transportation, case management, information and referral, in-home care, adult day care, and physical fitness programs. Funding also supports multi-purpose senior centers, which coordinate and integrate services for the elderly. In fiscal year 2010, this funding will support approximately 26 million rides to doctor's offices grocery stores, pharmacies, senior centers, meal sites, and other critical daily activities; 32 million hours of personal care, homemaker, and chore services; nine million hours of adult day care; and four million hours of case management services.

Nutrition Services - The Committee provides \$829,205,000 for Nutrition Services, which is \$19,462,000 more than the fiscal year 2009 funding level and the budget request. The Nutrition Services program includes Congregate Nutrition Services, Home-Delivered Nutrition Services and the Nutrition Services Incentive Program.

For more information specific to these bills, go to the Thomas website <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and enter the bill number under *Search Bill Summary & Status*.

Other News:

A recent report on global aging outlines the effects of the extraordinary increase in the worlds aging population. You can view *An Aging World: 2008 International Population Reports* at:

<http://www.census.gov/prod/2009pubs/p95-09-1.pdf>

Did you know?

This week the widening of U.S. 60 or Grand Avenue in the northwest Valley - became the 6,000th highway project funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

Contact Your Congressional Member: If you are interested in Congressional bills or wish to share your thoughts or concerns with your federal representatives, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House or <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the Senate.

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

What: Banner Alzheimer's Institute's 6th Annual conference on Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia in Native Americans, "Weaving the Old with the New: Challenges, Solutions and Hope for Caregivers"

When: September 18, 2009, Desert Diamond Casino & Hotel in Tucson; the conference is free of charge but registration *is required*.

For more information: Call Filmer Lallo, Coordinator for the Native American Program at Banner Alzheimer's Institute; phone number (602) 239-6858.

WHAT: 2nd Annual West Valley Senior Games provided by West Valley Recreation

WHEN: Saturday, November 21, 2009, 7:30 a.m. 2:00 p.m., Friendship Park, 12325 W. McDowell Rd., Avondale AZ 85323

Pre-Registration required; registration forms available online at:

<http://www.westvalleyrecreation.com/> or call (623-333-2413 for general information.

WHAT: Eighteenth Annual Elder Issues Conference, Sponsored by NACOG, Area Agency on Aging, Region III

WHEN: Wednesday, September 30, 2009, 8:30 - 4:30 pm, High Country Conference Center, 201 West Butler Avenue, Flagstaff, AZ 86001

To register or for more information, call 1-877-521-3500

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration, you can do so by sending an email with the description to: gaca@az.gov. Please note: we try to include events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service advocates.

Thank you and have a great week!
~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

Welcome to the Legislative Update for August 13, 2009

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and actions taking place at the Arizona State Legislature and to highlight Congressional bills or happenings affecting older Americans. This information is intended to help you shape your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts so that you can ensure your perspective and voice are heard. *The Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* Thank you for your interest!

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

2010 Budget:

On Wednesday, the Senate substituted House bills, H2006 for Senate 1020, H2008 for S1024, H2009 for S1023, H2010 for S1021, H2011 for S1027, H2012 for S1022, H2013 for H1026, and H2014 for S1028 then passed these bills. The budget package did not include the Governor's request for a special election related to a sales tax increase. H2015 and S1029 failed to pass the Senate. Today, the Senate voted to reconsider 8/12 failure to pass on bill (H2015); date of second vote to be determined by Senate President. Both the Senate and the House are adjourned until Monday, August 17th at 1:00 p.m.

Governor Brewer's statement about the Senate budget actions can be found at:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/dms/upload/NR_081209_Statement.pdf

More news regarding the recent Arizona Supreme Court ruling on the state budget dispute can also be found at the Governor's website under *Latest News*:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/>

To review the budget bills passed by the Senate, go to the Council's Third Special Session list provided below.

Legislation:

To help track legislation during the Third Special Session, the Council created the 3rd Special Session List which is being updated according to legislative actions.

3rd Special Session List:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=471&listid=16365&print=true>

FYI

Once the special session has ended, the Legislative Update will be provided *monthly* with a federal focus until the next legislative session begins.

During the Third Special Session: You can still contact your policymakers. If you have a particular perspective about the budget proposed, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-4331 or toll-free at 800-253-0883

Or you may **contact the legislator from your area**. If you do not know how to reach your local legislator, start at the homepage under *How do I find My Legislators* or follow the instructions provided at both the Senate and House Member links at the website.

Arizona State Legislature website: <http://www.azleg.gov/>

FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

H.R. 3155

Caregiver Assistance and Resource Enhancement Act

The CARE Act was introduced on July 9, 2009 by Representative Michael H. Michaud (ME-2) with the following cosponsors: Representative Corrine Brown (FL-3), Representative Joe Donnelly (IN-2), Representative Ron Klein (FL-22), Representative Christopher H. Smith (NJ-4), Representative Frank R. Wolf (VA-10), Representative Ander Crenshaw (FL-4), Representative Deborah L. Halvorson (IL-11), Representative Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23), and Representative Harry Teague (NM-2).

H.R. 3155 will amend title 38, United States Code to provide certain caregivers of veterans with training, support, and medical care, and for other purposes.

The Act:

- Directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA), with respect to individuals providing noninstitutional extended care to disabled veterans, to make support services available to such caregivers, both family and non-family, including:
 1. educational sessions teaching caring techniques, strategies, and skills;
 2. respite care;
 3. nursing care;
 4. counseling and mental health services;
 5. medical care; and
 6. lodging and subsistence.
- Requires the Secretary to survey and report to specified congressional committees on such caregivers, both family and non-family.

On 7/28/2009, after passing in the House by voice vote, the Act was received in the Senate, read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

For more information specific to this bill, go to the Thomas website <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and enter the bill number under *Search Bill Summary & Status*.

Other News:

As follow-up to last week's information on H.R. 3293:

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) budget specifically allocates an additional \$2 million for elder falls prevention.

Contact Your Congressional Member: If you are interested in Congressional bills or wish to share your thoughts or concerns with your federal representatives, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/>

for members of the House or <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the Senate.

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

WHAT: Arizona Geriatrics Society, *Transcultural Aspects of Aging & Healthcare*

WHEN: Tuesday, August 18, 2009, 7:30 am - 4:45 pm, Mesa Convention Center, 263 North Center Street, Mesa, AZ 85201

For more information:

<http://www.arizonageriatrics.org/mc/page.do?sitePageId=90747>

WHAT: Boomer Volunteer Engagement Workshop and Volunteer Fair

WHEN: Thursday, August 20, 2009, Gateway Community College, Main Building, Lower Cafeteria

For more information, click on:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/GateWayVolunteerWorkshopVolunteerFair.pdf>

WHAT: Arizona Health Care Association Annual Conference & Trade Show, *Back to the Future Embracing the Past, Envisioning the Future*

WHEN: August 25-27, 2009, Renaissance Glendale Hotel, Glendale Arizona

For more information and to register: www.azhca.org/events

What: Banner Alzheimer's Institute's 6th Annual conference on Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia in Native Americans,
"Weaving the Old with the New: Challenges, Solutions and Hope for Caregivers"

When: September 18, 2009, Desert Diamond Casino & Hotel in Tucson; the conference is free of charge but registration *is required*.

For more information: Call Filmer Lallo, Coordinator for the Native American Program at Banner Alzheimer's Institute; phone number (602) 239-6858

WHAT: Eighteenth Annual Elder Issues Conference, Sponsored by NACOG, Area Agency on Aging, Region III

WHEN: Wednesday, September 30, 2009, 8:30 - 4:30 pm, High Country Conference Center, 201 West Butler Avenue, Flagstaff, AZ 86001

To register or for more information, call 1-877- 521-3500

WHAT: Together We Care: Arizona Conference on Caregiving

WHEN: Thursday, November 5, 2009, North Phoenix Baptist Church, 5757 N. Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85012

For more information, email: cleary@gatewaycc.edu or call (602) 286-8153

WHAT: 2nd Annual West Valley Senior Games provided by West Valley Recreation

WHEN: Saturday, November 21, 2009, 7:30 a.m. 2:00 p.m., Friendship Park, 12325 W. McDowell Rd., Avondale AZ 85323

Pre-Registration required; registration forms available online at: <http://www.westvalleyrecreation.com/> or call (623-333-2413 for general information.

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration, you can do so by sending an email with the description to: gaca@az.gov. Please note: we try to include events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service advocates.

Thank you and have a great week!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

Welcome to the Legislative Update for August 21, 2009

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and actions taking place at the Arizona State Legislature and to highlight Congressional bills or happenings affecting older Americans. This information is intended to help you shape your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts so that you can ensure your perspective and voice are heard. *The Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* Thank you for your interest!

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

2010 Budget:

Yesterday, the House and Senate sent the budget package passed last week along with S1025 to the Governor. While the Governor has signed H2014 today, the probability of signoff on the remaining eight bills is unknown at this time. The budget package does not include the Governor's request for a sales tax referral; it does include further cuts to state agencies.

The Joint Legislative Budget Committee Summary of the 8/20/09 Budget Plan can be found at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/H-Sbudgetplan082009.pdf>

Both the Senate and the House have adjourned until Tuesday, August 25th at 1:00 p.m.

To review the budget bills passed by the Senate, (H2006; H2008; H2009; H2010; H2011; H2012; H2013; H2014; S1025) go to the Council's Third Special Session list provided below.

3rd Special Session List:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=471&listid=16365&print=true>

Note:

Once the special session ends, the Legislative Update will be provided *monthly* with a federal focus until the next legislative session begins.

During this Third Special Session: You can still contact your policymakers. If you have a particular perspective to share, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-4331 or toll-free at 800-253-0883

Or you may **contact the legislator from your area**. If you do not know how to reach your local legislator, start at the homepage under *How do I find My Legislators* or follow the instructions provided at both the Senate and House Member links at the website.

Arizona State Legislature website: <http://www.azleg.gov/>

FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

Earlier this month, the Senate passed **S.A. 1662**, an amendment introduced by Senator Dick Durbin (IL) for inclusion in the **2010 National Defense Authorization Act** or **S. 1390**. S.A. 1662 would support family caregivers of veterans by increasing the maximum amount of monthly compensation for service members who are injured or become ill while in the line-of-duty and who need help with everyday activities. The amendment creates a link to the family caregiver program in the Department of Veterans Affairs.

S.1150

Advance Planning and Compassionate Care Act of 2009

Introduced on 5/21/2009 by Senator John D. Rockefeller IV (WV), the bill has seven cosponsors: Senator Thomas R. Carper (DE), Senator Herb Kohl (WI), Senator Debbie Stabenow (MI), Senator Ron Wyden (OR), Senator Susan M. Collins (ME), Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (MD), and Senator Mark R. Warner (VA).

S. 1150 is intended to improve end-of-life care and:

- Directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to establish and operate directly, or by grant, contract, or interagency agreement, a 24-hour toll free telephone hotline to provide consumer information regarding advance care planning.
- Directs the Secretary to develop an online clearinghouse to provide comprehensive information regarding: (1) advance care planning; and (2) pediatric advance care planning.
- Directs the Secretary to develop an online advance care planning toolkit for availability on specified websites.
- Directs the Secretary, acting through the CDC Director, directly or through grants, contracts, or interagency agreements, to develop a national campaign to inform the public of the importance of advance care planning and of an individual's right to direct and participate in his or her health care decisions.
- Directs the Secretary to update the online version of the "Planning Ahead" section of the *Medicare & You Handbook* to include information about advanced care planning and advance directives.
- Directs the Commissioner of Social Security to update the online version of the *Social Security Handbook* for beneficiaries to include such information, as well as all paper and online versions subsequently published.
- Amends the Legal Services Corporation Act to authorize financial and legal assistance for advanced care planning.
- Directs the Secretary to award grants to states for certain state health insurance assistance programs to provide advance care planning services to Medicare beneficiaries, their personal representatives, and their families.
- Authorizes Medicaid transformation grants for advance care planning and advanced care planning community training grants.
- Directs the Secretary to make grants to eligible entities to establish new or expand existing programs for orders regarding life sustaining treatment in states or localities.
- Directs the Secretary, acting through the Administrator of Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and the Director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, to establish a website for providers under the Medicare, Medicaid, and the Children's Health Insurance Program, the Indian Health Service, and other public

health providers on each individual's right to make decisions concerning medical care, including the right to accept or refuse medical or surgical treatment, and the existence of advance directives.

- Directs the Secretary, acting through the Director of Health Resources and Services Administration, to develop a curriculum for continuing education that states may adopt for physicians and nurses on advanced care planning and end-of-life care.
- Amends titles XVIII (Medicare), XIX (Medicaid), and XXI (Children's Health Insurance) (CHIP, formerly known as SCHIP) of the Social Security Act with respect to the portability of advance directives.
- Amends the Public Health Service Act to direct the Secretary, acting through the CDC Director, to award competitive grants to eligible entities to establish and operate state advance directive registries.
- Requires various specified studies and reports to Congress by the Comptroller General and by the Secretary.
- Amends the Public Health Service Act to direct the Secretary to establish within the National Health Service Corps a National Geriatric and Palliative Care Services Corps.
- Exempts palliative medicine fellowship training from Medicare graduate medical education caps.
- Directs the Secretary to establish guidelines for the imposition by medical schools of a minimum amount of end-of-life training as a requirement for obtaining a Doctor of Medicine degree in the field of allopathic or osteopathic medicine.
- Authorizes coverage of advance care planning under Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP.
- Revises Medicare requirements for hospice payments and related matters. Makes hospice care a required Medicaid and CHIP benefit.
- Directs the Secretary, acting through the Administrator of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, to designate an entity to develop requirements, standards, and procedures for accreditation of hospital-based palliative care programs.
- Amends the Public Health Service Act to establish, within the National Institutes of Health, a National Center on Palliative and End-of-Life Care.
- Directs the Secretary to establish a demonstration program for the use of telemedicine services in advance care planning.

On 5/21/2009, the bill was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 2911, a related bill, was also introduced in the House on 6/17/2009 by Representative Earl Blumenauer (OR-3) and referred to the Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law.

For more information specific to any of these bills, go to the Thomas website <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and enter the bill number under *Search Bill Summary & Status*.

Contact Your Congressional Member: If you are interested in Congressional bills or wish to share your thoughts or concerns with your federal representatives, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House or <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the Senate.

Other News:

Family Caregiver Alliance (FCA) has announced the extension of the deadline for the Rosalinde Gilbert Innovations in Alzheimer's Disease Caregiving Legacy Awards applications to August 28, 2009.

For more information, go to:

http://www.caregiver.org/caregiver/jsp/content_node.jsp?nodeid=2188

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

What: Banner Alzheimer's Institute's 6th Annual conference on Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia in Native Americans, "Weaving the Old with the New: Challenges, Solutions and Hope for Caregivers"

When: September 18, 2009, Desert Diamond Casino & Hotel in Tucson; the conference is free of charge but registration *is required*.

For more information: Call Filmer Lallo, Coordinator for the Native American Program at Banner Alzheimer's Institute; phone number (602) 239-6858

WHAT: Eighteenth Annual Elder Issues Conference, Sponsored by NACOG, Area Agency on Aging, Region III

WHEN: Wednesday, September 30, 2009, 8:30 - 4:30 pm, High Country Conference Center, 201 West Butler Avenue, Flagstaff, AZ 86001

To register or for more information, call 1-877-521-3500

WHAT: Together We Care: Arizona Conference on Caregiving

WHEN: Thursday, November 5, 2009, North Phoenix Baptist Church, 5757 N. Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85012

For more information, email: cleary@gatewaycc.edu or call (602) 286-8153

WHAT: 2nd Annual West Valley Senior Games provided by West Valley Recreation

WHEN: Saturday, November 21, 2009, 7:30 a.m. 2:00 p.m., Friendship Park, 12325 W. McDowell Rd., Avondale AZ 85323

Pre-Registration required; registration forms available online at:
<http://www.westvalleyrecreation.com/> or call (623-333-2413 for general information.

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration, you can do so by sending an email with the description to: gaca@az.gov. Please note: we try to include events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service advocates.

Thank you and have a great week!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

Welcome to the Legislative Update for August 28, 2009

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and actions taking place at the Arizona State Legislature and to highlight Congressional bills or happenings affecting older Americans. This information is intended to help you shape your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts so that you can ensure your perspective and voice are heard. *The Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* Thank you for your interest!

Due to the lack of up-to-the-minute news to share, this week's issue of the Legislative Update is brief.

G ENERAL OVERVIEW:

2010 Budget:

On Tuesday, the House and Senate adjourned (sine die) ending the Third Special Session. The Governor now has until September 5th to consider those budget bills presented to her last week. The likelihood of signoff on the eight bills is still not known at this time. You can view the budget package (H2006; H2008; H2009; H2010; H2011; H2012; H2013; H2014; S1025) at the 3rd Special Session link below.

3rd Special Session List:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=471&listid=16365&print=true>

Note:

As soon as we have the 2010 budget, the Legislative Update will be provided *monthly* with a federal focus until the legislative session begins in January.

You can contact your policymakers. If you have a particular perspective to share, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-4331 or toll-free at 800-253-0883

Or you may **contact the legislator from your area**. If you do not know how to reach your local legislator, start at the homepage under *How do I find My Legislators* or follow the instructions provided at both the Senate and House Member links at the website.

Arizona State Legislature website: **<http://www.azleg.gov/>**

FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

No Federal Legislation updates to report at this time. Both the Senate and the House return on September 8, 2009.

If you want more information specific to any bill, go to the Thomas website <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and enter the bill number under *Search Bill Summary & Status*.

Contact Your Congressional Member: If you are interested in Congressional bills or wish to share your thoughts or concerns, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House or <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the Senate.

Other News:

This week HHS Secretary Sebelius released a report on seniors and health insurance reform. For more information, go to:

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2009pres/08/20090827a.html>

National Falls Prevention Week is September 20-26 and **National Falls Prevention Day** is September 22nd. For resources from NCOA, visit:

<http://www.healthyagingprograms.org/content.asp?sectionid=149>

Note: If you're interested in the Arizona Falls Prevention Coalition, call our office at 602-542-4710.

A coalition in Southwest Pennsylvania has drafted a guide for what they see as the ideal long term living system. To review, go to:

http://www.swppa.org/pdf_docs/SWPPA_futures_card.pdf

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

What: Banner Alzheimer's Institute's 6th Annual conference on Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia in Native Americans, "Weaving the Old with the New: Challenges, Solutions and Hope for Caregivers"

When: September 18, 2009, Desert Diamond Casino & Hotel in Tucson; the conference is free of charge but registration *is required*.

For more information: Call Filmer Lallo, Coordinator for the Native American Program at Banner Alzheimer's Institute; phone number (602) 239-6858

WHAT: 18th Annual NACOG AAA Conference Creating Caring Communities for Seniors: Aging Well

WHEN: Wednesday, September 30, 2009, 8:30 - 4:30 pm, High Country Conference Center, 201 West Butler Avenue, Flagstaff, AZ 86001

For more formation or to register,

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/RegistrationBrochure.pdf>

WHAT: Together We Care: Arizona Conference on Caregiving

WHEN: Thursday, November 5, 2009, North Phoenix Baptist Church, 5757 N. Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85012

For more information, email: cleary@gatewaycc.edu or call (602) 286-8153

WHAT: 2nd Annual West Valley Senior Games provided by West Valley Recreation

WHEN: Saturday, November 21, 2009, 7:30 a.m. 2:00 p.m., Friendship Park, 12325 W. McDowell Rd., Avondale AZ 85323

Pre-Registration required; registration forms available online at: **<http://www.westvalleyrecreation.com/>** or call (623-333-2413 for general information.

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration, you can do so by sending an email with the description to: **gaca@az.gov**. Please note: we try to include events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service advocates.

Thank you and have a great week!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

Welcome to the Legislative Update for September 4, 2009

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and actions taking place at the Arizona State Legislature and to highlight Congressional bills or happenings affecting older Americans. This information is intended to help you shape your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts so that you can ensure your perspective and voice are heard. *The Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* Thank you for your interest!

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

2010 Budget:

This afternoon, the Governor announced a series of action related to the budget package presented last week.

HB 2006: Budget: General Appropriations; FY 2009-10 - Line item vetoed (Note: eliminating cuts to K-12 and to DES)

HB 2008: Budget Reconciliation; General Govt; FY 09-10 - signed

HB 2009: Budget Reconciliation; Assets (State Properties) - signed

HB 2010: Budget Reconciliation; Criminal Justice; FY 09-10 - signed

HB 2011: Budget Reconciliation; K-12; FY 09-10 - line item vetoed

HB 2012: Budget Reconciliation; Higher Education - signed

HB 2013: Budget Reconciliation; Health and Welfare; FY 09-10 - signed

SB1025: budget Reconciliation; General Revenues - vetoed

To read the Governor's remarks, go to:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/DMS/upload/PR_090409_NewsConfRemarks.pdf

To view the transmittal letters, visit:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/BudgetActions.asp>

To read the joint statement from the Senate President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, go to:

<http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/press/Senate/49leg/1R/090409%5FBUDGET+VETO2%2EDOC.htm>

All of the budget bills can be found at the Council's **3rd Special Session List:**

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=471&listid=16365&print=true>

The August issue of *JLBC - Monthly Fiscal Highlights* reports that July General Fund revenues were \$(33.0) million below the budget forecast. To read the August issue, click on:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/mfh-aug-09.pdf>

If you have a particular perspective to share, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-4331 or toll-free at 800-253-0883

Or you may **contact the legislator from your area**. If you do not know how to reach your local legislator, go to the **Arizona State Legislature website** and look for: *How do I find My Legislators* or follow the instructions provided at both the **Senate and House Member links** at the website.

Arizona State Legislature website: <http://www.azleg.gov/>

FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

S.1555

National Alzheimer's Project Act

The bill was introduced on 7/31/2009 by Senator Mel Martinez (FL). The five Cosponsors: Senator Evan Bayh (IN), Senator Susan M. Collins (ME), Senator Jon Tester (MT), Senator Michael F. Bennet (CO), and Senator Russell D. Feingold (WI).

S.155 is intended to establish the Office of the National Alzheimer's Project.

The purpose of the Office:

- accelerate the development of treatments that would prevent, halt, or reverse the course of Alzheimer's
- be responsible for the creation and maintenance of an integrated national plan to overcome Alzheimer's
- help to coordinate the health care and treatment of citizens with Alzheimer's
- ensure the inclusion of ethnic and racial populations at higher risk for Alzheimer's or least likely to receive care, in clinical, research, and service efforts with the purpose of decreasing health disparities in Alzheimer's
- coordinate with international bodies to integrate and inform the fight against Alzheimer's globally

The Director, appointed by the President with advice and consent of the Senate, will:

- oversee the creation and updating of the national plan
- use discretionary authority to evaluate all Federal programs around Alzheimer's, including budget requests and approvals
- prepare and submit to the President the annual budget estimate for the Office.

Additionally, the Director of the Office will carry out an annual assessment of the Nation's progress in preparing for the escalating burden of Alzheimer's, including both implementation steps and recommendations for priority actions based on the assessment. The Director of the Office shall serve:

- on the advisory board of the Office of Science and Technology to promote research efforts into mechanisms to slow and stop the development of Alzheimer's for those at risk of developing the disease, or may appoint a designee to sit on such board
- on the Domestic Policy Council to represent those who have or will develop Alzheimer's, including on matters of housing, transportation, and education

S. 1555 establishes, in the Office, an Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Research and Treatment and membership of the Advisory Council to include:

- a designee of the Office of Science of the Department of Energy
- a designee of the Office of the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services
- a designee of the Administration on Aging
- a designee of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
- a designee of the Indian Health Service
- a designee of the Office of the Director of the National Institutes of Health
- the Surgeon General
- a designee of the National Science Foundation
- a designee of the Department of Veterans Affairs

In addition, the Advisory Council will include 12 members from outside the Federal Government, including two members who are patient advocate members and two members who represent States and members appointed by the majority and minority leaders of the Senate, the minority leader of the House. The remaining non-federal members will be representatives of academia, research, health and elder care delivery (both community-based and institutional), technology or other related sectors. The Advisory Council will meet quarterly in meetings open to the public. An Annual Report to the Director will include:

- recommendations for information to be included in the annual report to Congress by the Office
- an annually updated national plan

An Annual Report from the Director to Congress will include:

- an evaluation of all nationally and federally funded efforts in Alzheimer's research, clinical care, institutional, and home-and-community-based programs and outcomes
- annually updated national plan

The Office will sunset on December 31, 2025.

On 7/31/2009, the bill was referred to Senate committee, read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

If you want more information specific to this or any bill, go to the Thomas website (temporarily down for maintenance) <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and enter the bill number under *Search Bill Summary & Status*.

Contact Your Congressional Member: If you are interested in Congressional bills or wish to share your thoughts or concerns, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House or <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the Senate.

Other News:

Growing Smarter, Living Healthier: A Guide to Smart Growth and Active Aging is available for review or to download through The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The guidebook provides an overview of how communities work and how to advocate to help them become more 'age-friendly.' Included is a self-assessment to help communities rate themselves according to smart growth principles. To access the guidebook, go to:

<http://www.epa.gov/aging/bhc/guide/index.html>

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced a report this week on the importance of health insurance coverage for older women (ages 55 -64) and their senior peers (age 65 and older). The news release can be found at:

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2009pres/09/20090903a.html>

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

National Falls Prevention Week is September 20 - 26 and **National Falls Prevention Day** is September 22nd. For resources from NCOA, visit:

<http://www.healthyagingprograms.org/content.asp?sectionid=149>

Note: If you're interested in the **Arizona Falls Prevention Coalition**, call our office at 602-542-4710.

September 20-26 is Deaf Awareness Week promoting greater public education and awareness about deafness. The **Arizona Association of the Deaf** is holding their 2009 State Conference and festival on September 18 - 19, 2009. For more information:

<http://www.azadinc.org/conference/>

Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing has an events calendar on their website with various listings of interest to persons with hearing loss. Visit:

<http://www.acdhh.org/>

National Adult Day Services Week is September 20 - 26 To learn more about this community-based service option and to locate centers in your area, go to:

<http://www.azaads.org/>

World Alzheimer's Day is September 21st and more information about this international observance can be found at: <http://www.alz.org/index.asp>

Announcement:

The **Sierra Vista Regional Health Center** is sponsoring a free class on walking for health and wellness on September 22nd (Tuesday) at the Wellness Depot (next to Sears) in the Sierra Vista Mall. The presentation is at 10:00 to 11:00 A.M. and will offer posture correction tips, safe and effective ways to start walking, and how to improve results from your walking program. All ages are welcome; information for senior health care is included throughout the class. This presentation is an introduction to a weekly health walking class held every Tuesday morning in the Mall. For more information, contact: Dee Parks, Wellness Depot Coordinator: 520-459-8210 or diane.parks@svrhc.org .

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration, you can do so by sending an email with the description to: gaca@az.gov. Please note: we try to include events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service advocates.

Note: The Legislative Update will be provided *monthly* with a federal focus unless a special session is called prior to the legislative session in January.

Thank you and have a safe and enjoyable holiday weekend!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

Welcome to the Legislative Update for October 21, 2009

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and actions taking place at the Arizona State Legislature and to highlight Congressional bills or happenings affecting older Americans. This information is intended to help you shape your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts so that you can ensure your perspective and voice are heard. *The Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* Thank you for your interest!

Note: At this time, the Legislative Update is being provided *monthly* unless a special session is called prior to the legislative session in January.

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

2010 Budget Update:

As the state's revenue picture continues to grow bleaker, state agencies were asked by the Governor's Office of Strategic Planning and Budgeting to consider and report on the ramifications and impact of 15% cuts to operations should no solution to increasing revenues be achieved.

A copy of the letter of request from OSPB is found here:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/documents/PR_091809_OSPBLetterAgencies.pdf

A series of state agencies budget reports have been posted at the Governor's website. You can access the information at:

<http://www.ospb.state.az.us/BudgetReports.asp>

(Note: While larger agency reports, such as DES and AHCCCS, show impacts affecting seniors, programs and services assisting older Arizonans would be affected by cuts at many other agencies as well.)

The *Monthly Fiscal Highlights Report* for September 2009 from JLBC indicates that August collections were \$(47.5) million below the budget. The full report can be viewed at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/mfh-sep-09.pdf>

If you have a particular perspective to share related to the 2010 budget or other concerns, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-4331 or toll-free at 800-253-0883

Or you may **contact the legislator from your area**. You can locate your legislator by going to the **Arizona State Legislature website** <http://www.azleg.gov/> and looking for: *How do I find My Legislators* or by following the instructions provided at both the **Senate** and **House Member** links at the website.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

H.RES. 751

Title: Encouraging States to adopt laws that set clear guidelines for contact protocols for personal emergency response systems used by the Nation's senior citizens.

H.RES.751 was introduced on September 17, 2009 by Representative Ben Chandler (KY-6). It calls for states to adopt laws that set clear guidelines for contact protocols for personal emergency response systems used by senior citizens.

On 9/17/2009, H.RES. 751 was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

If you want more information specific to this or any bill, go to the Thomas website <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and enter the bill number under *Search Bill Summary & Status*.

Contact Your Congressional Member: If you are interested in Congressional bills or wish to share your thoughts or concerns, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House or <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the Senate.

Other News:

2009 H1N1 Influenza Vaccine and Seniors

To read the latest from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, go to: http://www.cdc.gov/H1N1flu/vaccination/vaccine_seniors.htm

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and U.S. Department of Justice announced efforts to fight Medicare fraud and medical identity theft of seniors.

Information and a printable brochure were produced by the HHS Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and are available now at <http://www.stopmedicarefraud.gov/> and www.oig.hhs.gov/fraud/idtheft.

For the latest update on Electronic Health Information Exchange, see: http://healthit.hhs.gov/portal/server.pt?open=512&objID=1350&parentname=CommunityPage&parentid=5&mode=2&in_hi_userid=11113&cached=true

U.S. Department of Treasury, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) has provided a Reverse Mortgage alert guide. To view, go to: <http://www.occ.gov/ftp/advisory/2009-2.pdf>

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

WHAT: Independent Living Resources Fair; Hosted by: The Arizona Bridge to Independent Living

WHEN: October 27, 2009; 10 am 3 pm; Nina Mason Pulliam Conference Center and Court Yard, Disability Empowerment Center, 5025 W. Washington. **RSVP** to Lyne at (602) 296-0534.

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/GACA/Newsletter/ILRF.pdf>

WHAT: "Women Talk: Money & More!" Panel Discussion and Resource Fair

WHEN: Wednesday, October 28, 2009, 10:30 am 1:30 pm, Phoenix College John Paul Theatre; **RSVP by October 26** by calling 602-495-373 or 602-534-1557/TTY

For more information:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/GACA/Newsletter/WEF_09.pdf

WHAT: "Together We Care" Arizona Conference on Caregiving

WHEN: Thursday, November 5, 2009, 8 am 4:30 pm; North Phoenix Baptist Church, 5757 N Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/GACA/Newsletter/AZConfCaregivingBrochure.pdf>

WHAT: 2009 Southeastern Arizona Suicide Prevention Seminar

"Understanding the Problem, Finding Hope in Solutions"

WHEN: Friday, November 6, 2009, 8 am 4:30 pm, Veterans Administration Auditorium, 3601 S. 6th Avenue, Tucson AZ 85723

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/GACA/Newsletter/Nov9SuicideSeminarFlyer.pdf>

WHAT: Honoring Our Veterans Maricopa County Indigenous Circle & The Diversity Office celebrate Native American Day

WHEN: Friday, November 6, 2009, 11:30 am 1:30 pm, Maricopa County Board of Supervisors Auditorium, 205 W. Washington, Phoenix, AZ

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/GACA/Newsletter/SaveTheDate110609.pdf>

WHAT: 21st Annual Fall Symposium; Geriatrics: Preparing for the Future
WHEN: Friday-Saturday, November 13-14, 2009, Desert Willow Conference Center, 4340 E. Cotton Center Boulevard, Ste 100 in Phoenix, AZ
For more information:
<http://www.azgovernor.gov/GACA/Newsletter/AzGS2009FallSymposiumBrochure.pdf>

November is Family Caregiver Month. Visit <http://www.azcaregiver.org/> for information on related events.

AZ Links Online Options Counselor. The Options Counselor is a self-guided program to help individuals plan for the future. Topics include long-term care options, legal and financial questions, caregiving, emotional health, and civic engagement. Each section offers questions and suggestions to help individuals think about their changing needs as they get older. Visit:
<https://egov.azdes.gov/cmsinternet/main.aspx?menu=8&id=46> and select Options Counselor."

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration, you can do so by sending an email with the description to: gaca@az.gov. Please note: we try to include events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service advocates.

Thank you and have a good rest of the week!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

Special Edition - Legislative Update - November 23, 2009

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and actions taking place at the Arizona State Legislature. The *Legislative Update* is non-partisan in nature. Thank you!

Latest News:

Fourth Special Session Ends

This afternoon, the Governor signed SB1001, SB1002, SB1003, and SB1004. The signing marked the close of the 4th Special Session of the 49th Arizona Legislature.

The GACA 4th Special Session Web Report with a summary of the bills is provided here:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=24491&listid=40515&print=true>

The JLBC 4th Special Session Fiscal Impact report can be viewed at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/4thspecialsessionfiscalimpact.pdf>

The JLBC Budget Reconciliation Bills final report is found at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/BRBfinal.pdf>

Note: The Legislative Update will be provided again next month just prior to the start of the 49th Legislature 2nd Regular Session.

~**Governor's Advisory Council on Aging**

Welcome to the Legislative Update for December 20, 2009

Fifth Special Session Issue

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and actions taking place at the Arizona State Legislature and to highlight Congressional bills or happenings affecting older Americans. This information is intended to help you shape your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts so that you can ensure your perspective and voice are heard. *The Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* Thank you for your interest!

Fifth Special Session:

Last week, Governor Brewer called a *Fifth Special Session* of the 49th Legislature for Thursday, December 17, 2009. To review the Governor's proclamation outlining the subjects to be considered at the Special Session, go to:

http://azgovernor.gov/dms/upload/PR_121509_SpecialSessionCalFor121709.pdf

A copy of the statement provided by the Governor prior to the opening of the Fifth Special Session is found at:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/dms/upload/PR_121609_StatementByGovernorBrewer.pdf

Three bills were posted during the special session that adjourned on Saturday, December 19th.

H2001: 2009-2010; GENERAL APPROPRIATION REDUCTIONS; TRANSFERS

H2002: UNCLAIMED PROPERTY; TRAVELER'S CHECKS

S1001: 2009-2010; GENERAL APPROPRIATION REDUCTIONS; TRANSFERS

Yesterday, **S1001** was substituted in the House for identical H2001 and **passed** by a vote of 32-22 and **now awaits the Governor's signature**.

S1001 bill summary sheet is provided at:

http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/49leg/5s/summary/s.1001approp_aspassed.doc.htm

The document details the fiscal impact of this legislation which is a combined \$194 million in savings and revenues to the state general fund.

A copy of the JLBC **5th Special Session Proposed Savings Senate Engrossed SB 1001** summary can be viewed at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/5thspecialsessionproposedsavingsenateengrossed.pdf>

To see the three bills of this special session, click on the Council on Aging **5th Special Session List** provided here:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=24492&listid=40839&print=true>

The Governor has called a special meeting with cabinet officials for tomorrow, Monday, December 21st to discuss the unresolved budget deficit and the states fiscal crisis. More information can be found at:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/dms/upload/MA_121909_BrewerEmergencyCabinetMeeting.pdf

More 2010 Budget:

The *Monthly Fiscal Highlights Report* for November 2009 from JLBC indicates the October collections were (23.8) % below the prior year, and \$(142.4) million below the budget forecast. That report is provided at: <http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/mfh-nov-09.pdf>

Looking Ahead:

The 49th Legislature, 2nd Regular Session is only 22 days away. You can view the Calendar Deadlines at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/alispdfs/council/49th%202nd%20Regular%20Calendar%20Deadlines.pdf>

If you have a particular perspective to share related to the Fifth Special Session legislation, 2010 budget or other matters, you can voice your thoughts by contacting the:

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-4331 or toll-free at 800-253-0883

Or you may contact the legislator from your area. You can locate your legislator by going to the Arizona State Legislature website <http://www.azleg.gov/> and looking for: *How do I find My Legislators* or by following the instructions provided at both the Senate and House Member links at the website.

Note: The Legislative Update will be provided again following the start of the 49th Legislature 2nd Regular Session.

We wish you a happy and safe holiday season!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging