

Welcome to the Legislative Update for January 14, 2011

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. It is our intent to offer this e-newsletter weekly when the state legislature is in session. *The Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* Thank you for your interest!

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

Monday, January 10th marked the start of the 1st Regular Session of the 50th Arizona State Legislature. In deference to the past weekend's tragedy in Tucson, the legislature and the Governor chose to focus attention on those involved in that event; the State of the State address was provided later in the week.

To access the Governor's State of the State address and remarks provided at Wednesday's Tucson event, go to: <http://www.azgovernor.gov/> and click on the links under *Latest News*.

Bipartisan support for SB 1101 resulted in the bill being passed unanimously in both houses and sent to the Governor for signature this week. SB 1101, signed by the Governor on Wednesday, creates a barrier between picketers and any location of a funeral or burial service.

The bill can be found at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/1r/bills/sb1101p.pdf>

Budget:

The Governor's 2012 budget plan is now posted at:

<http://www.ospb.state.az.us/Budbooks.asp>.

The Joint Legislative Budget Committee has posted *FY 2011 and FY 2011 JLBC Baseline January 14, 2011 report* at: <http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/11-12baselineestimates.pdf> and one-page summary at: <http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/12book1/fy12summary.pdf>.

The *December 2010 JLBC Monthly Fiscal Highlights* report can be found at: <http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/mfh-dec-10.pdf>

STATE LEGISLATION:

At the end of day five, 354 bills posted; one passed, one signed, and 31 memorials or resolutions posted. Several of the bills may 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 tracking list 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.

At this time, both the House and the Senate are adjourned until Tuesday, January 18, 2011.

FULL LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=24635&listid=43827&print=true>

Note: The FULL LIST 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. *This list will continue to be edited and expanded as we have an opportunity to get through all of the bills. We will add new bills to the list on a regular basis until all bills have been posted.* Information about bill status, hearing, etc. is a purchased service provided by the *Arizona Capitol Times*.

If you have a particular perspective to share with the administration or the legislature, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-1318 or toll-free at 1-800-253-0883 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:

Update on S.3036
National Alzheimer's Project Act was signed by the President on 1/4/2011.

H.R.103

Health Care Choices for Seniors Act

H.R. 103 was introduced on 1/5/2011 by Representative Marsha Blackburn (TN-7)

Health Care Choices for Seniors Act –

Amends title II (Old Age, Survivor's and Disability Insurance) (OASDI) of the Social Security Act (SSA) to require the Secretary of Health and Human

Services to establish a procedure under which an individual otherwise entitled to benefits under part A (Hospital Insurance) of SSA title XVIII (Medicare) may waive such entitlement and be automatically enrolled in the Medicare Alternative Voucher Program (MAV Program).

Directs the Secretary to establish the MAV Program, under which a voucher may be used as a contribution into a health savings account and for the payment of enrollment premiums under a high deductible health plan.

Amends the Internal Revenue Code to increase the amount of the itemized deduction for health savings accounts by the amount of the MAV that is contributed to an individual's health savings account.

Suspends Medicare late enrollment penalties for an individual between ages 65 and 70.

On 1/5/2011, the bill was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and to the Committee on Energy and Commerce;

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*. Did you know? You can access the latest legislative activities and visit congressional schedules and calendars under *Current Activity* on the Thomas homepage.

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:

Administration on Aging (AoA) - has announced that *the theme for Older Americans Month in May 2011 is Older Americans: Connecting the Community*.

Also: According to AoA - PBS will air the new documentary, Over 90 and Loving It, which features real stories of people in their 90s and 100s, in early 2011. For more information: <http://www.over90film.com/>

The National Council on Aging (NCOA) announced it is conducting a pilot project in collaboration with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the National Reverse Mortgage Lenders Association (NRMLA) to help reverse mortgage borrowers who are struggling to pay property taxes and homeowners insurance. For more information:

http://www.ncoa.org/press-room/press-release/ncoa-teams-with-hud-and-nrmla.html?utm_source=NCOAWeek_110111&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=NCOAWeek

National Institutes of Health January 2011 newsletter features information on the "Aging Eyes". For more information, go to:
<http://newsinhealth.nih.gov/issue/Jan2011/Feature1>

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 holiday weekend!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

Welcome to the Legislative Update for January 22, 2011

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. It is our intent to offer this e-newsletter weekly when the state legislature is in session. *The Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* Thank you for your interest!

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

1st Special Session - On Tuesday, the Governor called a Special Session to consider Medicaid eligibility, funding and a waiver. During the two-day session, six bills and two resolutions were posted. SB1001: *AHCCCS Waiver Request* passed and was signed by the Governor.

This website link provides information on all the 1st Special Session bills and resolutions:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=24642&listid=44079&print=true>

A statement by the Governor regarding the signing of SB1001 is provided here:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/dms/upload/PR_012111_StatementByBrewerMedicaidWaiver.pdf

Other related news - Updated information on the state's recovery from the Joint Legislative and Budget Committee (JLBC) January 20, 2011 Revenue and Budget Update is linked here:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/revenueandbudgetupdate012011.pdf>

The most recent *JLBC Monthly Fiscal Highlights* report can be found at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/mfh-dec-10.pdf>

STATE LEGISLATION:

At the end of day twelve, 756 bills posted and one passed, signed; 54 memorials or resolutions posted and one signed. Of the bills posted, several may 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 tracking list does not represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill.** It *does* mean that the bill topic is something that is may be of interest to or have an impact on Arizona seniors so the Council is tracking the bill's progress.

FULL LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=24635&listid=43827&print=true>

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If you're interested in committee assignments and schedules, you can find that information at the Arizona State Legislature website. Standing committee links are found at: <http://www.azleg.gov/StandingCom.asp>. Committee agendas and hearing schedules are posted at: <http://www.azleg.gov/CommitteeAgendas.asp>.

If you have a particular perspective to share with the administration or the legislature, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

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FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

H.R.331

Fair Taxes for Seniors Action of 2011

Introduced on 1/19/2011 by Representative Bob Filner (CA-51), the bill has no cosponsors.

H.R.331

Amends the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a one-time increase in the amount excludable from the sale of a principal residence by taxpayers who have attained age 50.

On 1/19/201, the bill was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

H.R.117
HELP Veterans Act of 2011

The bill was introduced on 1/5/2011 by Representative Bob Filner (CA-51).

H.R.117

Changes the standard of visual acuity required for eligibility for veterans' specially adapted housing assistance provided through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

Authorizes the VA to guarantee a veterans' housing loan regardless of whether such loan is subordinate to a lien created in favor of a public entity that provides assistance in response to a major disaster.

Extends through 2016 VA authority to issue and guarantee certificates or other securities evidencing an interest in a pool of mortgage loans.

Increases the authorized amount of the veterans' educational assistance allowance for flight training.

Increases authorized payments to veterans pursuing internships or on-job training under VA educational assistance programs.

Reauthorizes through June 30, 2020, certain qualifying VA work-study activities that lapse as of June 30, 2013.

Expands the VA's work-study allowance program to allow student veterans to conduct certain veterans' outreach activities in congressional offices.

Provides, through FY2013, a reduction in the percentage of wages to be provided by employers under VA on-job training programs.

Reauthorizes through 2020 the Veterans' Advisory Committee on Education.

Directs the Secretary to: establish a team of individuals to review new technologies, processes, and products and determine those that may be beneficial to the VA or to veterans served by the VA.

Directs the Secretary to provide limited reimbursement for the cost of child care provided by a licensed provider to a veteran who: (1) is participating in a VA vocational rehabilitation program; (2) is the sole caretaker of the child; and (3) would not otherwise be able to afford such care.

Increases the amount of reporting fees payable to educational institutions that enroll veterans receiving VA educational assistance.

Revises the way the VA charges a veteran's entitlement in the case of advance payment of an educational or subsistence allowance.

Increases the monthly subsistence allowance payable to service-disabled veterans participating in VA training and rehabilitation.

Directs the Secretary to pay a subsistence allowance, for up to three months, to a rehabilitated service-disabled veteran pursuing a VA program of employment services.

Authorizes the Secretary to hold an annual veterans entrepreneurial development summit.

Increases the maximum annual amount of VA specially adapted housing assistance.

Includes under VA authority to guarantee certain housing loans to veterans a loan for the construction of a new dwelling and the cost of making energy efficiency improvements to such dwelling.

Prohibits assistance provided under the VA's temporary residence adaptation program from counting toward the dollar limits under veterans' specially adapted housing assistance programs, but limits such exemption to the first 25 grants made during FY2012.

On January 5, 2011, the bill was referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.112

National Silver Alert Act of 2011 –

Introduced on 1/5/2011 by Representative Lloyd Doggett (TX-25), the bill has eight cosponsors.

H.R.112

Directs the Attorney General to: (1) establish a national Silver Alert communications network within the Department of Justice (DOJ) to assist regional and local search efforts for missing seniors; (2) assign a DOJ officer to serve as the Silver Alert Coordinator to coordinate the network with states; and (3) award grants to states for support of Silver Alert plans and the network. Defines "missing senior" as any individual who is reported as missing to or by a law enforcement agency and who meets state requirements for designation as a missing senior.

Directs the Coordinator to: (1) establish minimum standards for the issuance and dissemination of alerts issued through the network; and (2) make available to states, local governments, law enforcement agencies, and other concerned entities network training and information.

Kristen's Act Reauthorization of 2011 - Directs the Attorney General to make competitive grants to public agencies and/or nonprofit private organizations to: (1) maintain a national resource center and database for tracking missing adults; and (2) provide assistance and to law enforcement agencies, families, and victim advocates in locating and recovering missing adults.

On 1/5/2011, the bill was referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

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*. Did you know? You can access the latest legislative activities and visit congressional schedules and calendars under *Current Activity* on the Thomas homepage.

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:

The **National Council on Aging** – offers ideas to help nonprofits achieve sustainability. For more information, go to:

http://www.ncoa.org/strengthening-community-organizations/funding-sustainability/12-sources-articles/source-2.html?utm_source=NCOAWeek_110118&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=NCOAWeek#

February is National Heart Disease month and the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** promotes education on coronary heart disease and recognizing signs and symptoms of heart attacks. To learn more: http://www.cdc.gov/heartdisease/american_heart_month.htm?source=govdelivery

From the **Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality**

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force is inviting public comment on its draft recommendation statement on the prevention of falls in older adults from January 12 – February 9, 2011. For more information, click on the *Opportunity for Public Comment: Falls Prevention in Older Adults* link at:

<http://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/tfcomment.htm>

WHAT: 3rd Annual Arizona Military Women's Conference

WHEN: Saturday, April 30 and Sunday, May 1, 2011; Sheraton Crescent Hotel, Phoenix, AZ.

For more information:

http://dvs.az.gov/women_veterans/womens_conference.aspx

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 week!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

Welcome to the Legislative Update for January 28, 2011

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. It is our intent to offer this e-newsletter weekly when the state legislature is in session. *The Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* Thank you for your interest!

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

In advance of the Legislative Council calendar deadlines, bills continue to be filed. Monday, January 31st marks the last day for Senate bills to be introduced without special permission. February 7th is the last day for House bills to be introduced without special permission.

Budget

On Tuesday, the Governor sent a letter to the Secretary of the U.S. Health and Human Services requesting a waiver from the maintenance of effort requirements of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. The letter is posted at:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/dms/upload/PR_012511_SebeliusLetter.pdf

The AHCCCS Maintenance of Effort Waiver Frequently Asked Questions can be found at: <http://www.azahcccs.gov/reporting/Downloads/BudgetProposals/FY2012/MOEWaiverFAQs.pdf>

Senate and House Appropriations Committees hearings on AHCCCS:

Senate Appropriations agenda for Tuesday, February 1, 2011:

<http://www.azleg.gov/agendas/02010154102.pdf>

House Appropriations agenda for Wednesday, February 2, 2011:

<http://www.azleg.gov/agendas/02020101102.pdf>

State agency presentations to the House Health & Human Services Committee are posted at their websites:

AHCCCS: <http://www.azahcccs.gov/reporting/Downloads/Legislation/Presentations/1-12househealth.pdf>

DES: https://www.azdes.gov/uploadedFiles/Office_of_Communications/des_house_hhs_presentation_1_12_11.pdf

DHS: <http://www.azdhs.gov/diro/documents/ADHS20100723.pdf>

The Joint Legislative and Budget Committee (JLBC) Appropriations Committee hearing presentations (updated 1/28/2011) is linked at:
<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/appropsresentations.pdf>

STATE LEGISLATION:

Legislative action taking place on some of the bills the Council is tracking:

H2024: Retirement; ASRS; Amendments: on 1/12 from the House Employment and Regulatory Affairs Committee with a do pass recommendation.

H2027: Retirement; ASRS; Return to Work: Contributions: on 1/12 from House Employment & Regulatory Affairs Committee with do pass recommendation.

H2091: Nurses; Continuing Education: on 1/18 bill was referred to the House Health & Human Services; Appropriations.

H2128: Insurance; Mental Health Coverage; Parity: on 1/18 referred to House Banking & Insurance Committee.

H2156: Dental Hygienists; Supervision Requirements: on 1/18 referred to House Health & Human Services Committee.

H2224: Court Appointed Fiduciaries: on 1/24 referred to House Banking & Insurance Committee.

H2233: Mobile Dental Facilities: on 1/19 referred to House Health & Human Services Committee.

H2402: Incapacitated Persons; Guardians: On 1/24 referred to the House Judiciary Committee.

H2510: Palliative Care; Patient Information: on 1/26 referred to House Health & Human Services Committee.

S1030: Dental Hygienists; Supervision: on 1/10 referred to Senate Healthcare & Medical Liability Reform Committee.

S1038: Assisted Living Caregivers; Regulation, on 1/27 passed Senate and ready for the House.

S1082: DES; Fingerprinting; Finger Imaging: on 1/25 ok from the Senate Rules Committee.

Hearings:

H2157: DHS; Stroke Care Protocols, House Health & Human Service, 2/2 at 9:00 am, House Rm. 4

H2159: Dental Board; Fees, House Employment & Regulatory Affairs, 2/1 at 2:00 pm, House Rm. 3

H2372: Conservatorships; Guardianships; County Reimbursement, House Banking & Insurance Committee, 1/31, at 2:00 pm, House Rm. 5

S1175: Homeopaths; Categories of Licensure, Senate Healthcare & Medical Liability Reform, 2/2 at 2:00 pm, Senate Rm. 1

For a complete list of legislative action and hearings, see the information provided at the FULL LIST link below.

A summary of all legislative action on bills the Council is tracking can be found on the **FULL LIST** link provided below.

Note: to learn more about the legislative process, see the *Bill Process* link <http://www.azleg.gov/alisPDFs/hbillaw.pdf> or *Bill to Law* link <http://www.azleg.gov/alisPDFs/BillToLaw.pdf> at the Arizona State Legislature website.

At the end of day nineteen, 985 bills posted and 2 passed, 1 signed; 74 memorials or resolutions posted, 9 passed. Of the bills posted, several may 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 tracking list does not represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill.** It *does* mean that the bill topic is something that is may be of interest to or have an impact on Arizona seniors so the Council is tracking the bill's progress.

FULL LIST:

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If you're interested in committee assignments and schedules, you can find that information at the Arizona State Legislature website. Standing committee links are found at: <http://www.azleg.gov/StandingCom.asp>. Committee agendas and hearing schedules are posted at: [http://www.azleg.gov/CommitteeAgendas .asp](http://www.azleg.gov/CommitteeAgendas.asp).

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FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

H.R.70

Disability Benefit Fairness Act of 2011

Introduced on 1/5/2011 by Representative Mike McIntyre (NC-7), the bill has no cosponsors.

Disability Benefit Fairness Act of 2011 - Amends title II (Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance) (OASDI) of the Social Security Act (SSA) to eliminate: (1) the five-month waiting period for an individual (including a disabled widow or widower) to be eligible for benefits based on disability; and (2) any intervening reconsideration from the review process governing decisions on benefit entitlement.

On 1/5/2011, H.R. 70 was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

H.R. 239

Notch Baby Act of 2011

Introduced on 1/7/2011 by Representative Jo Ann Emerson (MO-8), the bill has no cosponsors.

Notch Baby Act of 2011 - Amends title II (Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance) of the Social Security Act with respect to the benefit computation formula for individuals affected by the changes in benefit computation rules enacted in the Social Security Amendments of 1977 who became eligible (at age 62) for (early retirement) old-age insurance benefits after 1978 and before 1989 (and reached age 65 for full-retirement benefits after 1981 and before 1992).

Sets forth a schedule of additional benefit increases for such beneficiaries (and related beneficiaries), with percentages declining from 60% to 10% keyed to the year an individual became eligible for (early retirement) benefits between 1978 and 1989.

On January 7, 2011, the bill was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

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Other News:

From the **Kaiser Family Foundation**

"Measure of State Economic Distress" - data for each state on the number of homes in foreclosure, unemployment rates, and utilization of SNAP (formerly Food Stamp program):

<http://www.statehealthfacts.org/comparetable.jsp?ind=649&cat=1>

Kaiser Health News – Making End-of-Life Decisions is Hard on Family Members:

<http://www.kaiserhealthnews.org/Features/Insuring-Your-Health/michelle-andrews-on-end-of-life-care.aspx>

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

WHAT: 66th Anniversary Iwo Jima Flag Raising

WHEN: February 19, 2011, 9:00 am, Matthew B. Juan – Ira Hayes Veterans Memorial Park, Sacaton, AZ

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/IwoJimaFlagRaisingFeb19.pdf>

WHAT: Health Fair –Youngtown, Arizona

WHEN: Saturday, February 26, 2011; 9:00 am to 2:00 p.m.

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/HealthFairYoungtownFeb26.pdf>

WHAT: Southwest Valley Forum: Constructive Solutions to Common Challenges – Low Vision, Dental Care, Hearing Loss

WHEN: Thursday, February 24, 2011, 8:30 – 12:00 noon, Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, 918 S. Litchfield Road, Building B, Goodyear, AZ 85338

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/AAASWVForum022411.pdf>

WHAT: 2011 Walk Across Arizona promoted by the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension

WHEN: February 13 to April 9, 2011

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/WalkAZ2011.pdf>

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Welcome to the Legislative Update for February 4, 2011

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Budget related news:

On Thursday, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services issued a letter to states regarding Medicaid programs. The news release regarding the letter is linked here:

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/01/20110203a.html>

Governor Brewer's letter of response is found at:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/dms/upload/PR_020311_SebeliusLetter.pdf

The Joint Legislative and Budget Committee (JLBC) Appropriations Committee hearing presentations (updated 2/4/2011) is linked at:

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

STATE LEGISLATION:

Legislative action taking place on *some* of the bills the Council is tracking:

H2155: Dental Board; Omnibus: stricken from the House consent calendar on 2/1/2011.

H2157: DHS; Stroke Care Protocols: from House Health & Human Services Committee with striker amendment #4058 on 2/2/2011.

H2169: Dental Board; Fees: from House Employment & Regulatory Affairs Committee with amendment #4047 on 2/1/2011.

H2303: Voting Centers; Polling Places: from House Judiciary Committee with amendment #4075 on 2/3/2011.

S1147: Palliative Care; Patient Information: Referred to the Senate Healthcare & Medical Liability Reform Committee on 2/1/2011.

S1499: Probate; Omnibus: Referred to the Senate Public Safety & Human Services Committee on 2/1/2011.

Hearings:

H2634: DHS; Health Care Institution; Rules, House Health & Human Services, 2/9 at 9 am, House Room 4

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At the end of day 26, 1,254 bills posted and three passed, two signed; 116 memorials or resolutions posted, 9 passed. Of the bills posted, several may 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 tracking list does not represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill.** It *does* mean that the bill topic is something that is may be of interest to or have an impact on Arizona seniors so the Council is tracking the bill's progress.

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Note: The FULL LIST 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. ***This list will continue to be edited and expanded as we have an opportunity to get through all of the bills. We will add new bills to the list on a regular basis until all bills have been posted.*** 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: Information about bill status, hearing, etc. is a purchased service provided by the *Arizona Capitol Times*.

If you're interested in committee assignments and schedules, you can find that information at the Arizona State Legislature website. Standing committee links are found at: <http://www.azleg.gov/StandingCom.asp>. Committee agendas and hearing schedules are posted at: <http://www.azleg.gov/CommitteeAgendas.asp>.

If you have a particular perspective to share with the administration or the legislature, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-1318 or toll-free at 1-800-253-0883 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.R.370
Preventing Affinity Scams for Seniors Act of 2011 or the PASS Act of 2011**

Introduced on January 20, 2011 by Representative Joe Baca (CA-43), the bill has no cosponsors.

H.R.370 requires financial institutions to offer services to protect seniors (65 and older) from affinity scams and to report suspected affinity scams. Affinity scams means a transaction in which a person trusted by a senior, such as a caregiver, relative, guardian, new friend, or service provider, claims to share similar interests or values with the senior, establishes a relationship with the senior (either on the person's own initiative or through some other method, such as a court-appointed guardianship), and then uses the relationship to defraud the senior. _

Staff Education and Training.

Each financial institution shall:

- (1) educate the staff of the financial institution about affinity scams and how to identify transactions that may be part of an affinity scam; and
- (2) train staff members on educating seniors about affinity scams.

Senior Customer Education

Each financial institution shall provide educational materials and other information to seniors who maintain a deposit account with the financial institution about affinity scams and how to identify transactions that may be part of an affinity scam.

Education and Training Oversight

The Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection shall:

- (1) issue such regulations as are necessary to carry out this section; and
- (2) periodically audit financial institutions to ensure compliance with such regulations

Senior Protection Account Requirements

(1) With respect to a senior who maintains a senior protection account with a financial institution, if the financial institution receives a transaction request to debit such account and, before processing the transaction, the financial institution identifies the transaction as possibly being part of an affinity scam, the financial institution shall:

(A) not process the transaction; and

(B) initiate an investigation in order to determine if such transaction is part of an affinity scam or is legitimate.

H.R.370 outlines a notification process if an affinity scam is determined to alert the senior, law enforcement and the Bureau of Financial Protection.

On 1/20/2011, the bill was referred to the Committee on Financial Services and in the Committee on Ways and Means.

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*. Did you know? You can access the latest legislative activities and visit congressional schedules and calendars under *Current Activity* on the Thomas homepage.

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:

During *American Heart Month*, the **National Institutes of Health (NIH)** urge women to take charge of their heart:

<http://www.nih.gov/news/health/feb2011/nhlbi-04.htm>

Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics (Forum) released the *Older Americans 2010: Key Indicators of Well-Being (Older Americans 2010)*.

To view the report, go to:

http://www.agingstats.gov/agingstatsdotnet/Main_Site/Data/2010/Documents/Docs/OA_2010.pdf

From the USDA and HHS – new dietary guidelines...“to promote health, reduce the risk of chronic diseases, and reduce the prevalence of overweight and obesity through improved nutrition and physical activity.” The information can be found at:

<http://www.cnpp.usda.gov/dietaryguidelines.htm>

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

WHAT: Hospice of the Valley *Understanding the Journey of Dementia* workshops

WHEN: Wednesday, February 9; Saturday, February 12; Wednesday, February 16; & Wednesday February 23

For *locations and times*, go to:

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

WHAT: Border Conference on Disability

WHEN: March 4, 2011, 9 am – 4:30 pm, The Quality Inn in Nogales, Arizona 85621; Teleconference participation available in Yuma and Douglas.

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/2011BorderConfFlyer.pdf>

WHAT: Arizona Partners in Preparedness Seminar, *Forging Relationships with Disability and Emergency Management Communities*

WHEN: March 9-10, 2011, Disability Empowerment Center, 5025 E. Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona.

For more information: <http://enableus.org/upcoming-events/APP2011/APP.html>

WHAT: 3rd Annual Arizona Military Women's Conference

WHEN: Saturday, April 30 and Sunday, May 1, 2011; Sheraton Crescent Hotel, Phoenix, AZ.

For more information:

http://dvs.az.gov/women_veterans/womens_conference.aspx

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 next *Legislative Update* will be distributed in *two weeks*.

Thank you and have a good weekend!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

Welcome to the Legislative Update for February 18, 2011

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. It is our intent to offer this e-newsletter weekly when the state legislature is in session. *The Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* Thank you for your interest!

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

On Monday, February 14th, the Governor called a **2nd Special Session** of the 50th Legislature.

The proclamation outlining the intent of the special session is provided at:

http://azgovernor.gov/dms/upload/Proc_021411_2ndSpecialSession_50thLegislature.doc.pdf .

On Wednesday, **H2001: Arizona Commerce Authority; Business Incentives** passed the House and was substituted in the Senate for S1001 then passed before adjournment of the special session. On Thursday, the Governor signed H2001. Information about the bill, as posted on the Arizona State Legislature's website, is available at:

http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/50leg/2s/su/mmary/h.hb2001_02-15-11_houseengrossed.doc.htm

Other news:

Conversations continued around the Governor's request for a waiver from the maintenance of effort requirements of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. The February 15th letter from Secretary of Health & Human Services Kathleen Sebelius to the Governor is linked here:

http://azgovernor.gov/dms/upload/PR_021511_SebeliusLetter.pdf

Governor Brewer's statement regarding the letter can be found at:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/dms/upload/PR_021511_Sebelius.pdf

From the Joint Legislative and Budget Committee -

JLBC *Monthly Fiscal Highlights* for January 2011 reports that the general fund budget shortfall is projected to be \$(530) million in fiscal year 2011 and \$(975) million in fiscal year 2012. The report is provided at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/mfh-jan-11.pdf>

JLBC presentations to the Appropriations Committees are posted at:

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

JLBC Training Arizona's Recovery (1/31/2011) report can be found at:

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

STATE LEGISLATION:

Legislative action taking place on *some* of the 59 bills the Council is tracking:

H2091: Nurses: Continuing Education: from House Health and Human Services Committee with amendment on 2/17.

H2156: Dental Hygienists; Supervision Requirements: from House Health and Human Services Committee with amendment on 2/17.

H2233: Mobile Dental Facilities: from House Health and Human Services Committee with amendment on 2/17.

H2402: Incapacitated Persons; Guardians: from House Judiciary Committee as amended on 2/17.

H2530: Dental Board; from House Health and Human Services with amendment 2/17.

H2651: AHCCCS; Veterans: from House Health and Human Services with a do pass recommendation on 2/17.

H2726: Retirement Systems; Plan Design: from House Employment and Regulatory Affairs Committee on 2/17.

Some of the HEARINGS scheduled next week:

H2156: Dental Hygienists: Supervision Requirements: House Rules on 2/21 at 1:00 pm, House Rm. 4.

H2233: Mobile Dental Facilities: House Rules 2/22 at 1:00 pm, House Rm 4.

H2634: DHS; Health Care Institutions; Rules: 2/21 House Committee of the Whole (COW) calendar.

H2651: AHCCCS; Veterans: House Appropriations 2/23 at 2:00 pm, House Rm. 1.

S1043: Nursing Care Administrators; Continuation: House Health and Human Services 2/23 at 9:30 am, House Rm. 4.

For a complete list of legislative action and hearings on all the bills being tracked, see the information provided at the FULL LIST link below.

At the end of day 40, 1,335 bills posted and **six passed, five signed**; 135 memorials or resolutions posted, 10 passed. Of the bills posted, several may 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 tracking lists does not represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill.** It *does* mean that the bill topic is something that is may be of interest to or have an impact on Arizona seniors so the Council is tracking the bill's progress.

SHORT LIST – those bills having to do with health and safety of older adults

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=24673&listid=44407&print=true>

FULL LIST:

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(To learn more about the legislative process, see the *Bill Process* link <http://www.azleg.gov/alisPDFs/hbillaw.pdf> or *Bill to Law* link <http://www.azleg.gov/alisPDFs/BillToLaw.pdf> at the Arizona State Legislature website.)

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FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

H.R. 610***Making Investments Now for Dementia Act of 2011***

The bill was introduced on February 10, 2011 by Representative Michael C Burgess (TX-26). The bill authorizes the issuance of United States bonds to fund Alzheimer's research. Proceeds are authorized to be appropriated to the Director of the National Institutes of Health for research under title IV of the Public Health Service Act and used solely for Alzheimer's research.

On February 10, 2011, the bill was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

H.R.539***Preserving Our Promise to Seniors Act***

Introduced on 2/8/2011 by Representative Theodore E. Deutch, (FL-19), the bill has nine cosponsors.

Preserving Our Promise to Seniors Act - Directs the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) of the Department of Labor to prepare and publish for each calendar month a Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers (CPIEC) that indicates changes over time in consumption expenditures typical for individuals in the United States 62 years of age or older.

Amends title II (Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance) (OASDI) of the Social Security Act to tie the CPIEC to computation of cost-of-living increases in OASDI benefits.

Directs the Secretary of the Treasury to disburse a cash payment of \$250 (adjusted for inflation) for each non-COLA year to certain recipients of OASDI benefits, railroad retirement benefits, veterans disability compensation or pension benefits, or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits under SSA title XVI.

Amends the Internal Revenue Code to prescribe special rules for the determination of wages and self-employment income above the contribution and benefit base after 2011.

Amends SSA title II to include surplus average indexed monthly earnings (AIME) in the determination of primary OASDI amounts.

Develops points of order in the House of Representatives and the Senate with respect to consideration of any legislation whose effect would be a program: (1) reducing OASDI benefits in connection with contributions to individual beneficiary accounts in the private sector; or (2) providing for investment of amounts in the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund in any investment vehicle other than interest-bearing U.S. obligations or U.S.-guaranteed obligations.

On February 8, 2011, the bill was referred to House Committee on Ways and Means, Committees on Education and the Workforce, Rules, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Veterans' Affairs.

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*. Did you know? You can access the latest legislative activities and visit congressional schedules and calendars under *Current Activity* on the Thomas homepage.

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:

From the **Alzheimer's Association**

Generation Alzheimer's – The Defining Disease of the Baby Boomers

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/ALZBoomersReportFINAL012411.pdf>

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Older Driver Program, Five-Year Strategic Plan 2012–2017 explores the safety needs of older drivers.

View the report at: <http://www.nhtsa.gov/staticfiles/nti/pdf/811432.pdf>

From the **U.S. Department of Health & Human Services**

National Vaccine Plan can be found at:

http://www.hhs.gov/nvpo/vacc_plan/

From the EPA:

Building Healthy Communities - Sustainable Communities

Applications for 5th annual Building Healthy Communities for Active Aging - due July 11, 2011.

For more information, go to:

<http://www.epa.gov/aging/bhc/awards/index.htm>

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

Pima Council on Aging Older Adult Suicide Prevention Program

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/PCOASuicidePreventionBrochure0110.pdf>

WHAT: Arizona Geriatrics Society 4th Annual Spring Geriatric Mental Health & Aging Conference

WHEN: Friday, April 8, 2011; Crowne Plaza Phoenix, 2532 W. Peoria Avenue, Phoenix, AZ

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/AzGSSpringEmailBrochure2011.pdf>

WHAT: TIMEOUT Workshop; Hoarding: The Best Kept Secret

WHEN: Tuesday, May 17, 2011; Civic Center Library, 2829 N. Drinkwater Blvd., Scottsdale, AZ 85251

For registration and more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/2011TimeOutFlyer.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 .

Please note: we try to include events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service advocates.

Thank you and have a good week!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

Welcome to the Legislative Update for February 25, 2011

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. It is our intent to offer this e-newsletter weekly when the state legislature is in session. *The Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* Thank you for your interest!

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

Fiscal News

From the Joint Legislative and Budget Committee -

JLBC Monthly Fiscal Highlights for February 2011 reports "January was the sixth consecutive month of year-over-year growth in base General Fund revenue collections." The report is provided at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/mfh-feb-11.pdf>

JLBC **Tracking Arizona's Recovery** (2/20/2011) report can be found at:

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

It was a very active week at the Arizona State Legislature with more than 660 actions filed in five days.

STATE LEGISLATION:

Legislative action taking place on *some* of the 59 bills the Council is tracking:

One of the bills receiving considerable attention this week:

S1519: AHCCCS: Termination: 2/23 from the Senate Appropriations Committee as amended. A link to the factsheet posted on the Arizona Legislature's website is provided here:

<http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/50leg/1r/su/mmary/s.1519approp.doc.htm>

H2156: Dental Hygienists; Supervision Requirements: 2/24 retained on House Committee of the Whole (COW) calendar.

H2157: DHS: Stroke Care Protocols: 2/24 from House Rules Committee with okay.

H2233: Mobile Dental Facilities: 2/24 retained on House Committee of the Whole (COW) calendar.

H2402: Incapacitated Persons; Guardians: 2/24 from House Rules Committee with okay.

H2530: Dental Board: House Committee of the Whole (COW) approved with amendments.

Some of the HEARINGS scheduled next week:

H2155: Dental Board; Omnibus: Senate Healthcare & Medical Liability Reform Committee, 3/2 at 2:00 pm, Senate Rm. 1.

H2635: Court-Ordered Evaluation: Senate Healthcare & Medical Liability Reform Committee, 3/2 at 2:00 pm, Senate Rm.

S1038: Assisted Living Caregivers; Regulation: House Health & Human Services Committee, 3/2 at 9:30 am, House Rm. 4.

S1082: DES; Fingerprinting; Finger Imaging: House Health & Human Services Committee, 3/2 at 9:30 am, House Rm. 4.

For a complete list of legislative action and hearings on all the bills being tracked, see the information provided at the FULL LIST link below.

At the end of day 47, 1,337 bills posted and six passed, six signed; 138 memorials or resolutions posted, 10 passed. Of the bills posted, several may 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 tracking lists does not represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill.** It *does* mean that the bill topic is something that is may be of interest to or have an impact on Arizona seniors so the Council is tracking the bill's progress.

SHORT LIST – those bills having to do with health and safety of older adults.

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=24673&listid=44407&print=true>

FULL LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=24635&listid=43827&print=true>

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Share your thoughts! If you have a particular perspective to share with the administration or the legislature, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

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If you're interested in learning more about the legislative process, see the *Bill Process* link <http://www.azleg.gov/alisPDFs/hbillaw.pdf> or *Bill to Law* link <http://www.azleg.gov/alisPDFs/BillToLaw.pdf> at the Arizona State Legislature website.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

H.R.450

Restoring Assistance for Families' and Seniors' Health Expense Act of 2011

Introduced on 1/26/2011 by Representative David G. Reichert, the bill has three cosponsors: Representative Jim Gerlach (PA-6), Representative Sue Wilkins Myrick (NC-9), and Representative Patrick J. Tiberi (OH-12).

Restoring Assistance for Families' and Seniors' Health Expenses Act of 2011- Repeals provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) that: (1) increase from 7.5% to 10% the adjusted gross income threshold for claiming the tax deduction for medical expenses; (2) restrict payments from health savings accounts, medical savings accounts, and health flexible spending arrangements for medications solely to prescription drugs or insulin; (3) increase to 20% the penalty for distributions from a health savings or Archer medical savings account not used for qualified medical expenses; and (4) limit to \$2,500 the annual salary reduction contribution to a health flexible spending arrangement under a cafeteria plan.

Amends PPACA to treat a high deductible health plan as a qualified health plan under such Act.

On February 9, 2011, the bill was referred to the House Subcommittee on Health.

H.R.537

Safe Food for Seniors Act of 2011

The bill was introduced on 2/8/2011 by Representative Gerald E. Connolly (VA-11).

H.R.537

Amends titles XVIII (Medicare) and XIX (Medicaid) of the Social Security Act to require the full-time director of food services at a Medicare skilled nursing facility (SNF) or a Medicaid nursing facility, if not a qualified dietitian, to be a Certified Dietary Manager meeting the requirements of the Certifying Board for Dietary Managers or have equivalent military or academic qualifications.

On 2/15/2011, the bill was referred to the House Subcommittee on Health.

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*. Did you know? You can access the latest legislative activities and visit congressional schedules and calendars under *Current Activity* on the Thomas homepage.

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:

The **Administration on Aging (AoA)** and the **National Institute on Aging (NIA)** have announced a joint initiative ... "to support moving evidence-based research findings towards the development of new interventions, programs, policies, practices, and tools that can be used by community-based organizations to help elderly individuals remain healthy and independent, and living in their own homes and communities." For information about the research grant opportunity, go to:

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-11-123.html>

From the **Center for Retirement Research at Boston College** - analysis of the Community Living Assistance and Support Program (CLASS) of the Affordable Care Act, "What is 'CLASS'? and Will it Work?" can be viewed at:

http://crr.bc.edu/images/stories/Briefs/IB_11-3.pdf

From the **Kaiser Family Foundation**

Three papers from the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured are linked at:

<http://www.kff.org/medicaid/Resources-Examine-Recession-Driven-Record-Medicaid-Enrollment-Assess-Medicaid-Spending-Growth.cfm>

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

Pima Council on Aging Older Adult Suicide Prevention Program

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/PCOASuicidePreventionBrochure0110.pdf>

WHAT: Tai Chi Easy; Become a Practice Leader!

WHEN: March 18, 25 and 26, 2011, 8 am to 5 pm, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, Maricopa County, 4341 E. Broadway, Phoenix, AZ 85040

For more information: <http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/TaiChiT-t-T2011.pdf>

WHAT: Arizona Geriatrics Society 4th Annual Spring Geriatric Mental Health & Aging Conference

WHEN: Friday, April 8, 2011; Crowne Plaza Phoenix, 2532 W. Peoria Avenue, Phoenix, AZ

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/AzGSSpringEmailBrochure2011.pdf>

WHAT: TIMEOUT Workshop; Hoarding: The Best Kept Secret

WHEN: Tuesday, May 17, 2011; Civic Center Library, 2829 N. Drinkwater Blvd., Scottsdale, AZ 85251

For registration and more information:

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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: Due to Council committee meetings and staffing needs, the next *Legislative Update* will be issued in approximately two weeks. Thank you for your understanding and have a good week!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

Welcome to the Legislative Update for March 11, 2011

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GENERAL OVERVIEW:

1,150 floor actions were filed during the past two weeks at the state legislature; no updated budget information posted.

STATE LEGISLATION:

Legislative action taking place on *some* of the bills the Council is tracking:

H2155: Dental Board; Omnibus: 3/8 from the Senate Rules Committee with a technical amendment.

DHS: Stroke Care Protocols: 3/7 referred to the Senate Health & Medical Liability Reform Committee.

H2233: Mobile Dental Facilities: 3/10 referred to Senate Health & Medical Liability Reform Committee.

H2402: Incapacitated Persons; Guardians: 3/10 referred to Senate Judiciary Committee.

H2530: Dental Board: 3/10 from Senate Health & Medical Liability Reform Committee with amendment.

S1082: DES; Fingerprinting; Finger Imaging: 3/2 from House Health & Human Services Committee with do pass recommendation.

S1499: Probate; Omnibus: 3/10 passed Senate; ready for House.

Some of the HEARINGS scheduled next week:

H2402: Incapacitated Persons; Guardians: Senate Judiciary; 3/14 at 2:00 pm, Senate Rm. 1.

S1082: DES; Fingerprinting; Finger Imaging: House Rules Committee, 3/14 at 1:00 pm, House Rm. 4.

For a complete list of legislative action and hearings *on all the bills* being tracked, see the information provided at the **FULL LIST link below.**

At the end of day 61, 1,337 bills posted and eight passed, seven signed; 140 memorials or resolutions posted, 14 passed. Of the bills posted, several may 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 tracking lists does not represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill.** It *does* mean that the bill topic is something that is may be of interest to or have an impact on Arizona seniors so the Council is tracking the bill's progress.

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Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-1318 or toll-free at 1-800-253-0883 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.

If you're interested in committee assignments and schedules, you can find that information at the Arizona State Legislature website. Standing committee links are found at: <http://www.azleg.gov/StandingCom.asp>. Committee agendas and hearing schedules are posted at: <http://www.azleg.gov/CommitteeAgendas.asp>.

If you're interested in learning more about the legislative process, see the *Bill Process* link <http://www.azleg.gov/alisPDFs/hbillaw.pdf> or *Bill to Law* link <http://www.azleg.gov/alisPDFs/BillToLaw.pdf> at the Arizona State Legislature website.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

S.462

Elder Abuse Victims Act of 2011

S.462 was introduced on 3/2/2011 by Senator Herb Kohl (WI) and is intended to "better protect, serve, and advance the rights of victims of elder abuse and exploitation by establishing a program to encourage States and other qualified entities to create jobs designed to hold offenders accountable, enhance the capacity of the justice system to investigate, pursue, and prosecute elder abuse cases, identify existing resources to leverage to the extent possible, and assure data collection, research, and evaluation to promote the efficacy and efficiency of the activities described in the Act."

On 3/2/2011, the bill read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

H.R.718

Huntington's Disease Parity Act of 2011

H.R.718 was introduced on 2/15/2011 by Representative Bob Filner (CA-51).

Directs the Commissioner of Social Security, for purposes of determining cognitive, behavioral, and physical disability under titles II (Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance) (OASDI) and XVI (Supplemental Security Income) (SSI) of the Social Security Act (SSA) to amend specified Listings of Impairments by providing medical and evaluation criteria for Huntington's Disease.

Amends SSA title II to waive the 24-month waiting period for coverage under the Medicare program for individuals diagnosed with Huntington's Disease.

On 2/15/2011, the bill was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

H.R.877

Title: To express the sense of Congress that Federal job training programs that target older adults should work with nonprofit organizations that have a record of success in developing and implementing research-based technology curriculum designed specifically for older adults.

The bill was introduced on 3/2/2011 by Representative William Lacy Clay (MO-1) and proposes that the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), and any other federal program that provides job training and placement services for older adults, should:

- (1) work with nonprofit organizations that have a record of success in developing and implementing research-based technology curriculum designed specifically for older adults.

- (2) partner with such organizations to provide training, student materials, and support for a broad range of workforce technology skills, including basic and intermediate computer skills, Internet, email, word processing, spreadsheets, presentations, and other appropriate key skills for assisting older workers to enter or reenter the workforce.

On 3/2/2011, the bill was referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

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*. Did you know? You can access the latest legislative activities and visit congressional schedules and calendars under *Current Activity* on the Thomas homepage.

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:

Debate in Congress over proposed cuts includes services and programs affecting older adults.

National Council on Aging - NCOA comparison of fiscal year appropriations as proposed:

<http://www.ncoa.org/assets/files/pdf/FY11-CRs-030411.pdf>

Administration on Aging Budget Statement:

http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/About/Budget/DOCS/FY_2012_AoA_Budget_Statement.pdf

Elder Abuse Concerns:

U.S. Government Accountability Office - **GAO** report on Elder Abuse can be found at: <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-11-208>

Highlights page is posted at: <http://www.gao.gov/highlights/d11208high.pdf>

The **Arizona Attorney General's Office** has information and resources on Elder Abuse posted at: http://www.azag.gov/seniors/elder_abuse.html.

Resource guide: http://www.azag.gov/seniors/elder_abuse_guide.html.

The **Administration on Aging** (AoA) has released *A Profile of Older Americans: 2010* which can be found at:

http://www.aoa.gov/aoaroot/aging_statistics/Profile/index.aspx

http://www.aoa.gov/aoaroot/aging_statistics/Profile/2010/docs/2010profile.pdf

AoA Funding opportunities are found at:

<http://aoa.gov/AoARoot/Grants/Funding/index.aspx>

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

WHAT: Growing Stronger Families through Communication; Coordinated by the Family Communications Consortium at Arizona State University

WHEN: Friday, March 25, 2011, 8:30 to 4:30 at the ASU Downtown campus, A.E. England Building, 424 N. Central Avenue, Phoenix AZ

For more information:

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

WHAT: 2011 Arizona Living Well Institute Symposium – "Communicate, Market, & Connect"

WHEN: April 8, 2011, 8 to 4, Desert Botanical Garden, Phoenix, AZ

For more information:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/AZLWI_2011SymposiumSVTD.pdf

WHAT: TIMEOUT Workshop; Hoarding: The Best Kept Secret

WHEN: Tuesday, May 17, 2011; Civic Center Library, 2829 N. Drinkwater Blvd., Scottsdale, AZ 85251

For registration and more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/2011TimeOutFlyer.pdf>

Later this year...

WHAT: 2011 National Respite Conference and Grantee Meeting

WHEN: November 1-4, 2011, Renaissance Glendale Hotel & Spa, Glendale, AZ

For more information:

<http://www.azrespite.org/respite/manyfaces/>

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: Due to staffing, the *Legislative Update* will be issued approximately every two weeks. Thank you for your understanding. Have a good weekend!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

Welcome to the Legislative Update for March 25, 2011

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. It is our intent to offer this e-newsletter weekly when the state legislature is in session. *The Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* Thank you for your interest!

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

Budget

Last week, the **Senate** passed a FY 2011-2012 budget that includes cuts of \$1.5 billion.

The **Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC)** *Senate Budget Proposal* report is provided at the link below.

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/senatebudgetproposaleng3-18-11.pdf>

The Senate budget bills include:

- S1612: general appropriations 2011-2012
- S1613: 2011-2012; capital outlay
- S1614: 2011-2012; state budget procedures
- S1615: consolidation; state agencies
- S1616: revenue; 2011-2012; budget reconciliation
- S1617: K-12 education; 2011-2012; budget reconciliation
- S1618: higher education; 2011-2012; budget reconciliation
- S1619: health; 2011-2012; budget reconciliation
- S1620: welfare; 2011-2012; budget reconciliation
- S1621: criminal justice; 2011-2012; budget reconciliation
- S1622: general government; 2011-2012; budget reconciliation
- S1623: regulation; 2011-2012; budget reconciliation

S1624: environment; 2011-2012; budget reconciliation

Links to information specific to those budget bills can be found at the **Arizona State Legislature** website:

<http://www.azleg.gov/Bills.asp?FirstBill=SB1601&LastBill=SB1650>

More budget news

On Tuesday, the **Governor** provided a guest editorial piece in *The Arizona Republic* reiterating her commitment to the budget she provided earlier this year which includes \$536 million less in cuts.

A link to the Governor's budget information page is provided here:

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

Budget information from the **House** is pending.

STATE LEGISLATION:

Legislative action taking place on *some* of the bills the Council is tracking:

H2099: AHCCCS: Hospice Care; Restoration allows Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) to cover end-of-life care at inpatient hospice facilities for individuals who are on Medicaid. Latest action: 3/24 from Senate Health & Medical Liability Reform Committee with do pass recommendation.

H2157: DHS: Stroke Care Protocols directs the Department of Health Services (DHS) to adopt rules that establish emergency stroke care protocols. Latest action: 3/24 from Senate Health & Medical Liability Reform Committee with do pass recommendation.

H2233: Mobile Dental Facilities requires, as of January 1, 2012, every mobile dental facility and persons or entities that use portable dental units to obtain a permit from the state Board of Dental Examiners (Board). Latest action: 3/24 from Senate Health & Medical Liability Reform Committee with do pass recommendation.

S1082: DES; Fingerprinting; Finger Imaging modifies the requirements for the finger imaging programs for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Latest action: 3/24 from House Health & Human Services Committee with do pass recommendation.

S1499: Probate; Omnibus makes numerous changes to the statutes governing the protection of persons under disability and their property. Latest action: 3/24 from House Judiciary Committee with do pass recommendation.

Some of the HEARINGS scheduled next week:

H2099: AHCCCS: Hospice Care; Restoration: 3/28 1:00 pm, Senate Caucus Rm.

H2157: DHS: Stroke Care Protocols: 3/28 1:00 pm, Senate Caucus Rm.

H2233: Mobile Dental Facilities: 3/28 1:00 pm, Senate Caucus Rm.

S1082: DES; Fingerprinting; Finger Imaging: Calendar 3/28 - House Committee of the Whole.

For a complete list of legislative action and hearings on all the bills being tracked, see the information provided at the FULL LIST link below.

More than 895 floor actions were filed over the past two weeks at the state legislature. Last Friday, March 18th marked the last day by leadership order for House committees to consider Senate bills (by House rule last day is April 9). Today marked the last day by leadership for Senate committees to consider House bills (by Senate rule last day is April 9).

At the end of day 75, 1,350 bills posted and nine passed, eight signed; 142 memorials or resolutions posted, 16 passed. Of the bills posted, several may be of interest to Arizona seniors and are being 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 tracking lists does not represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill.** It *does* mean that the bill topic is something that is may be of interest to or have an impact on Arizona seniors so the Council is tracking the bill's progress.

SHORT LIST – those bills having to do with health and safety of older adults

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=24673&listid=44407&print=true>

FULL LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=24635&listid=43827&print=true>

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Share your thoughts! If you have a particular perspective to share with the administration or the legislature, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-1318 or toll-free at 1-800-253-0883 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.

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If you're interested in learning more about the legislative process, see the *Bill Process* link <http://www.azleg.gov/alisPDFs/hbillaw.pdf> or *Bill to Law* link <http://www.azleg.gov/alisPDFs/BillToLaw.pdf> at the Arizona State Legislature website.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

S.465

Senior Financial Empowerment Act of 2011

Introduced on 3/2/2011 by Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand (NY), the bill's cosponsor is Senator Herb Kohl (WI).

Senior Financial Empowerment Act of 2011 –

Requires the Federal Trade Commission (FTC):

(1) to disseminate to seniors and their families and caregivers information on mail, telemarketing, and Internet fraud targeting seniors, including on ways of referring complaints to appropriate law enforcement agencies;

(2) in response to a request about a particular entity or individual, to provide publicly available information on any record of civil or criminal law enforcement action for such fraud; and

(3) to maintain a website as a resource for such individuals on those kinds of fraud.

Directs the Attorney General (DOJ) to establish and administer a competitive grant program for mail, telemarketing, and Internet fraud prevention education programs for senior citizens.

Expresses the sense of Congress with respect to public awareness of the impact of such fraud on senior citizens.

On March 2, 2011, the bill was referred to Senate committee, read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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. Did you know? You can access the latest legislative activities and visit congressional schedules and calendars under *Current Activity* on the Thomas homepage.

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 National News:

Center for Medicare and Medicaid - CMS just announced a new website. *Innovations* can be accessed at: <http://innovations.cms.gov/>.

From the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Administration on Aging (AoA), Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS)**

Enhancing Use of Clinical Preventive Services Among Older Adults: Closing the Gap - a report that highlights the use of potentially lifesaving preventive services by adults aged 65 years and older- is available at:

http://www.cdc.gov/Features/PreventiveServices/Clinical_Preventive_Services_Closing_the_Gap_Report.pdf.

2011 Alzheimer's Disease Facts & Figures was recently released.

http://www.alz.org/downloads/Facts_Figures_2011.pdf

2011 Public Health Week: "Safety is no Accident"

<http://www.nphw.org/nphw11/first1.htm>

May is Older Americans Month

Administration on Aging (AoA) offers information and resources at:

http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Observances/2011/Older_Americans.aspx.

Also: Last issue, we provided a link to the GAO (U.S. Government Accountability Office) report on elder abuse. Here is a link to the **AoA National Center on Elder**

Abuse website that contains resources for family members, service providers and policymakers.

http://aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/Elder_Rights/NCEA/index.aspx

National Senior Fitness Day

In its 18th year, *National Senior Health & Fitness Day* is held the last Wednesday in May in local communities as part of *Older Americans Month* and *National Physical Fitness and Sports Month* activities. For more information:

<http://www.fitnessday.com/senior/index.htm>

The Congressional Research Service report on **Community Living Assistance Services and Supports - CLASS** is provided here:

http://healthreform.kff.org/~media/Files/KHS/docfinder/crs_1511CLASSAct.pdf.

Healthcare 411 features **tips on preventing falls** from the **Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality**.

<http://healthcare411.ahrq.gov/radiocastseq.aspx?id=1185&type=seq>

Family Caregiver Alliance fact sheet and resources on dementia and driving can be found at:

http://www.caregiver.org/caregiver/jsp/content_node.jsp?nodeid=432.

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

The University of Arizona Department of Immunobiology and the Arizona Center on Aging have won a five-year, \$11.8 million contract from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease – part of the National Institutes of Health. To read more, go to: <http://uanews.org/node/38571>.

WHAT: A.T. Still University 7th Annual Lecture on Aging

WHEN: Friday, April 1, 2011, 12 to 1 pm, Arizona Campus, Saguaro A & B

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/SaveTheDateATSU7Annual.pdf>

WHAT: 2011 Arizona Living Well Institute Symposium – "Communicate, Market, & Connect"

WHEN: April 8, 2011, 8 to 4, Desert Botanical Garden, Phoenix, AZ

For more information:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/AZLWI_2011SymposiumSVTD.pdf

WHAT: A Conference for Connectivity Connections & Partnerships: Moving Arizona Forward

WHEN: Tuesday, April 12, 2011, 8 to 5, Mesa Marriott Hotel, 200 North Centennial Way, Mesa, AZ 85021

For more information:

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

WHAT: Caring For A Loved One At Home Family Caregiver Classes

WHEN: May 3, 4, 5, 10 and 11, 2011, 1 to 3:15 pm, Prescott Valley Civic Center, 7501 E. Civic Circle, Room 331, Prescott Valley, AZ

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/FlyerMay2011PV.pdf>

Later this year...

WHAT: 2011 National Respite Conference and Grantee Meeting

WHEN: November 1-4, 2011, Renaissance Glendale Hotel & Spa, Glendale, AZ

For more information:

<http://www.azrespice.org/respice/manyfaces/>

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.

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~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

Welcome to the Legislative Update for April 1, 2011

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Budget News

Following an all-night session, the House passed a budget Friday morning.

That package, heard and approved in the Senate this afternoon, includes:

S1612: general appropriations 2011-2012, Now: 2011-2012; general appropriations

S1613: 2011-2012; capital outlay, Now: capital outlay; 2011-2012

S1614: 2011-2012; state budget procedures, Now: state budget procedures; 2011-2012

S1615: consolidation; state agencies, Now: state agencies; consolidation

S1616: revenue; 2011-2012; budget reconciliation, Now: budget reconciliation; revenue; 2011-2012

S1617: K-12 education; 2011-2012; budget reconciliation, Now: budget reconciliation; K-12 education; 2011-2012

S1618: higher education; 2011-2012; budget reconciliation, Now: budget reconciliation; higher education; 2011-2012

S1619: health; 2011-2012; budget reconciliation, Now: budget reconciliation; health; 2011-2012

S1620: welfare; 2011-2012; budget reconciliation, Now: budget conciliation; welfare; 2011-2012

S1621: criminal justice; 2011-2012; budget reconciliation, Now: budget reconciliation; criminal justice; 2011-2012

S1622: general government; 2011-2012; budget reconciliation, Now: budget reconciliation; general government; 2011-2012

S1623: regulation; 2011-2012; budget reconciliation, Now: budget reconciliation; regulation; 2011-2012

S1624: environment; 2011-2012; budget reconciliation, Now: budget reconciliation; environment; 2011-2012

The bills are now headed to the Governor.

Information on these bills, as posted on the Arizona State Legislature website, can be found at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/Bills.asp?FirstBill=SB1601&LastBill=SB1650>.

The **Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) March 31 Budget Proposal House Engrossed** report is provided at the link below.

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/mar31budgethouseeng.pdf>

The **JLBC Summary of Budget Proposals** - a comparison of proposals (Executive, Senate and March 31st) and list of general fund changes per agency is posted at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/summary033111proposal.pdf>.

Other fiscal news

The **JLBC Tracking Arizona's Recovery March 2011** report is posted at:

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

According to the **March 2011 JLBC Monthly Fiscal Report** - "February was the seventh consecutive month of year-over-year growth in base General Fund revenue collections."

A link to the report is provided here:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/mfh-mar-11.pdf>.

On Thursday, the **Governor** sent a letter to U.S. Health & Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. A link to the Governor's letter is provided here:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/dms/upload/PR_033111_LetterSecretarySebelius.pdf.

STATE LEGISLATION:

After passing a budget package, both the House and Senate are adjourned until Monday, April 4th.

Legislative action taking place on *some* of the bills on the Council's **SHORT** list this week:

H2099: AHCCCS: Hospice Care; Restoration allows Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) to cover end-of-life care at inpatient hospice facilities for individuals who are on Medicaid. Latest action: 3/30 Senate Committee of the Whole approved.

H2157: DHS: Stroke Care Protocols directs the Department of Health Services (DHS) to adopt rules that establish emergency stroke care protocols. Latest action: 3/29 from Senate Rules Committee with okay.

H2233: Mobile Dental Facilities requires, as of January 1, 2012, every mobile dental facility and persons or entities that use portable dental units to obtain a permit from the state Board of Dental Examiners (Board). Latest action: 3/29 from Senate Rules Committee with okay.

S1082: DES; Fingerprinting; Finger Imaging modifies the requirements for the finger imaging programs for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Latest action: 3/28 from House Committee of the Whole approved.

Hearing scheduled next week:

S1038: Assisted Living Caregivers; Regulation, Hearing on 4/4/ at 1:00 pm, House Rules Committee, House Rm. 4.

For a complete list of legislative action and hearings on all the bills being tracked, see the information provided at the LIST links below.

More than 290 floor actions were filed over the past week at the state legislature.

At the end of day 82, 1,350 bills posted and 23 passed, nine signed; 142 memorials or resolutions posted, 17 passed. Of the bills posted, several may be of interest to Arizona seniors and are being 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 tracking lists does not represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill.** It *does* mean that the bill topic is something that is may be of interest to or have an impact on Arizona seniors so the Council is tracking the bill's progress.

SHORT LIST – those bills having to do with health and safety of older adults:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=24673&listid=44407&print=true>

FULL LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=24635&listid=43827&print=true>

Note: The SHORT LIST and FULL LIST website links 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. **These lists will continue to be edited and updated as long as the legislative session continues.** Information about bill status, hearing, etc. is a purchased service provided by the *Arizona Capitol Times*.

Share your thoughts! If you have a particular perspective to share with the administration or the legislature, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-1318 or toll-free at 1-800-253-0883 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.

If you're interested in committee membership and schedules, you can find that information at the Arizona State Legislature website. Standing committee links are found at: <http://www.azleg.gov/StandingCom.asp>. Committee agendas and hearing schedules are posted at: <http://www.azleg.gov/CommitteeAgendas.asp>.

If you're interested in learning more about the legislative process, see the *Bill Process* link <http://www.azleg.gov/alisPDFs/hbillaw.pdf> or *Bill to Law* link <http://www.azleg.gov/alisPDFs/BillToLaw.pdf> at the Arizona State Legislature website.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

S.582

Social Security Protection Act of 2011

Introduced on 3/15/2011 by Senator Bernard Sanders (VT), the bill has nine cosponsors.

Social Security Protection Act of 2011:

Makes it out of order in the Senate or the House of Representatives to consider any legislation that:

(1) increases the retirement age or the early retirement age for individuals receiving benefits under title II (Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance) (OASDI) of the Social Security Act on or after the enactment of this Act;

(2) reduces cost-of-living increases for them;

- (3) reduces benefit payment amounts for them; or
- (4) creates private retirement accounts for any of the OSADI benefits they receive.

On March 15, 2011, the bill was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

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*. Did you know? You can access the latest legislative activities and visit congressional schedules and calendars under *Current Activity* on the Thomas homepage.

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:

May is Older Americans Month

Administration on Aging (AoA) offers information and resources at:

http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Observances/2011/Older_Americans.aspx

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

WHAT: Earth Day 4 Corners Environmental Education Symposium, First Nation's Children and Elders Community Roundtable

WHERE: STAR School, 145 Leupp Rd., Flagstaff AZ

For more information:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/EarthDayFourCorners_PressRelease.pdf

WHAT: Northern Arizona Gerontology Association Getting Good at Getting Old- Strategies for Healthy Aging; 27th Rural Conference on Aging

WHEN: Friday, April 29, 2011, 8:30 am to 2:00 pm, Federated Church, 406 W. Aspen Avenue, Flagstaff, AZ

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/NAGA2011ReqForm.pdf>

WHAT: 2011 Southeastern Arizona Suicide Prevention Conference
Promoting Hope Building a Stronger Community for Armed Forces Members and Their Families

WHEN: Monday, May 23, 2011, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Community Partnership of Southern Arizona, 2502 N. Dodge Blvd., Tucson, AZ

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/SaveTheDate052311Brochure.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. Please note: we try to include events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service advocates.

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General Overview

Legislators appear intent on adjourning the session soon. More than 470 floor actions took place in the legislature this week.

Budget

The Governor signed the budget package, as forwarded from the legislature, this week. That package includes:

S1612: 2011-2012; general appropriations

S1613: capital outlay; 2011-2012

S1614: state budget procedures; 2011-2012

S1615: state agencies; consolidation

S1616: budget reconciliation; revenue; 2011-2012

S1617: budget reconciliation; K-12 education; 2011-2012

S1618: budget reconciliation; higher education; 2011-2012

S1619: budget reconciliation; health; 2011-2012

S1620: budget conciliation; welfare; 2011-2012

S1621: budget reconciliation; criminal justice; 2011-2012

S1622: budget reconciliation; general government; 2011-2012

S1623: budget reconciliation; regulation; 2011-2012

S1624: budget reconciliation; environment; 2011-2012

Information on these bills, including bill overview, versions and summary/fact sheets are posted on the Arizona State Legislature website and can be found at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/Bills.asp?FirstBill=SB1601&LastBill=SB1650>.

(Click on the bill number to view the options.)

The package includes additional cuts to DES (approximately \$50 million) and DHS (approximately \$53 million).

Part of the budget package passed and signed included restoration of transplant coverage. Information is provided on the AHCCCS website link provided here:

<http://www.azahcccs.gov/shared/news.aspx#TransplantRestoration>

A comparison of budgets, as proposed originally by the Governor, by the Senate and the March 31st version, can be found at the **JLBC Summary of Budget Proposals** link:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/summary033111proposal.pdf>.

STATE LEGISLATION:

The House and Senate are adjourned until Monday, April 11, 2011.

Bills Passed and Signed this week (from the Council's SHORT List):

H2099: Hospice Care; Restoration: signed by the Governor on 4/6/2011.

S1043: Nursing Care Administrators; Continuation: signed by the Governor on 4/6/2011.

S1248: Hospitals; Dual Licensure; Elimination: signed by the Governor on 4/7/2011.

Bills passed and sent to the Governor (from the Council's SHORT list):

H2157: DHS: Stroke Care Protocols

H2169 Dental Board; Fees

H2233: Mobile Dental Facilities

S1082: DES; Fingerprinting; Finger Imaging

Bills on calendars for next week:

Monday, April 11th

S1038 - House Third Reading

S1175 - House Committee of the Whole

S1190 – House Committee of the Whole

S1240 – House consent

For a complete list and review of *all the bills* tracked this session, see the information provided at the LIST links below.

At the end of day 89, 1,350 bills posted and 124 passed, 43 signed; 142 memorials or resolutions posted, 19 passed. Of the bills posted, several may be of interest to Arizona seniors and are being 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 tracking lists does not represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill.** It *does* mean that the bill topic is something that is may be of interest to or have an impact on Arizona seniors so the Council is tracking the bill's progress.

SHORT LIST – those bills having to do with health and safety of older adults

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=24673&listid=44407&print=true>

FULL LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=24635&listid=43827&print=true>

Note: The SHORT LIST and FULL LIST website links provide you with the current status of the bills being tracked by the Council and are available and updated on an ongoing basis, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. ***These lists will continue to be edited and updated as long as the legislative session continues.*** Information about bill status, hearing, etc. is a purchased service provided by the *Arizona Capitol Times*.

Share your thoughts! If you have a particular perspective to share with the administration or the legislature, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-1318 or toll-free at 1-800-253-0883 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.

If you're interested in committee membership and schedules, you can find that information at the Arizona State Legislature website. Committee links are found at: <http://www.azleg.gov/StandingCom.asp>. Committee agendas and hearing schedules are posted at: <http://www.azleg.gov/CommitteeAgendas.asp>.

If you're interested in learning more about or reviewing the legislative process, see the *Bill Process* link <http://www.azleg.gov/alisPDFs/hbillaw.pdf> or *Bill to Law* link <http://www.azleg.gov/alisPDFs/BillToLaw.pdf> at the Arizona State Legislature website.

FEDERAL OVERVIEW:

Federal Shut Down Avoided

At this time, Congressional leaders have reached a budget agreement and passed a seven-day, short-term continuing resolution to fund the federal government through Thursday, 4/14/2011 while legislation is drafted.

NOTE: 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*. Did you know? You can access the latest legislative activities and visit congressional schedules and calendars under *Current Activity* on the Thomas homepage.

Contact Your Congressional Member! If you are interested in Congressional actions, 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:

As part of Older Americans Month, Senior Centers are being invited to enter a Community Connection Video Game Tournament. More information can be found at: <http://olderamericansmonth.org/>

Older Americans Month information and resources can be found at:

http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Observances/2011/Older_Americans.aspx

From the U.S. Department of Labor – *Taking the Mystery Out of Retirement Planning – A focus on Women & Retirement*

Webinar on Tuesday, April 12, 2011, 1:00 – 2:15 pm EDT

For more information and to register:

<https://event.on24.com/eventRegistration/EventLobbyServlet?target=registration.jsp&eventid=301567&sessionid=1&key=65A6A95A461C5293DD249BDF5256B72C&sourcepage=register>

**From the U.S. Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration -
Second National Take Back (Prescription Drug) Initiative**

April 30, 2011 10 am to 2pm

In communities throughout the nation, public safety and public health organizations are collaborating to collect unwanted or expired prescription drugs for safe disposal.

For more information, go to:

http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/index.html

To locate a collection site near you, go to:

https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/NTBI/NTBI-PUB.pub;jsessionid=1B894374BF908DF1250CCE914D5F2A85?flowExecutionKey=cEEFA112F-882C-AC25-A536-063F3B4758BB_k782152C8-BB0E-6184-E1A0-D5423258705F

Long Term Quality Alliance report on improving care transitions and reducing avoidable hospitalizations:

<http://www.ltqa.org/wp-content/themes/ltqaMain/custom/images/Innovative-Communities-Report-Final-0216111.pdf>

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

National Alliance on Mental Illness – Southeastern Arizona offers

FREE Mental Health Support Groups in Bisbee, Sierra Vista, and Douglas.

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/SupportGroupFlyer0411.pdf>

WHAT: Northern Arizona Gerontology Association *Getting Good at Getting Old- Strategies for Healthy Aging*; 27th Rural Conference on Aging

WHEN: Friday, April 29, 2011, 8:30 am to 2:00 pm, Federated Church, 406 W. Aspen Avenue, Flagstaff, AZ

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/NAGA2011RegForm.pdf>

WHAT: *The Sacred Journey of Caregiving; A Transformational Approach to Life* presented by **Western Arizona Council of Governments Area Agency on Aging** and the **Alzheimer's Association Desert Southwest Chapter Northern Arizona Region**

WHEN: May 11, 2011, 9 am to 3:00 pm, Bullhead City Chamber of Commerce, 1251 Highway 95, Bullhead City, AZ 86429.

For more information:

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

WHAT: *Hoarding Conference: Opening the Door to Change*

WHEN: May 17, 2011, 9 am to 4 pm, Scottsdale Civic Center Library, 3839 N. Drinkwater Blvd., Scottsdale, AZ 85251

For updated information:

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

WHAT: 2011 Southeastern Arizona Suicide Prevention Conference
Promoting Hope Building a Stronger Community for Armed Forces Members and Their Families

WHEN: Monday, May 23, 2011, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Community Partnership of Southern Arizona, 2502 N. Dodge Blvd., Tucson, AZ

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/SaveTheDate052311Brochure.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. Please

note: we try to include events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service advocates.

Note: Based on staffing, the *Legislative Update* will be issued biweekly if not weekly until the end of the 50th Regular Legislative Session.

Have a good weekend!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

Welcome to the Legislative Update for April 15, 2011

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. It is our intent to offer this e-newsletter weekly when the state legislature is in session. *The Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* Thank you for your interest!

General Overview

With an anticipated sine die (adjournment) of the 50th regular legislative session in the days ahead, more than 533 floor actions took place in the legislature this week. The House worked into the night Thursday, April 14th. Both the Senate and the House are adjourned until Monday, April 25th.

*At the end of day 96, **1,350 bills posted** and **237 passed, 4 vetoed, 134 signed; 144 memorials or resolutions posted, 25 passed.***

Bi-partisan support of veterans

Passed and signed by the Governor this week, **HB2410 honorable discharged veterans; in-state tuition**: grants in-state student status for the purposes of tuition at any Arizona public university or community college to any person honorably discharged from the United States Armed Forces.

STATE LEGISLATION:

Some of the bills signed by the Governor this week (from the Council's lists):

H2155: Dental Board; Omnibus – see fact sheet posted at Arizona State Legislature website:

http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/50leg/1r/su/mmary/h.hb2155_04-06-11_astransmittedtogovernor.doc.htm&Session_ID=102

H2157: Stroke Care; DHS – see fact sheet posted at Arizona State Legislature website:

http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/50leg/1r/su/mmary/h.hb2157_04-06-11_astransmittedtogovernor.doc.htm&Session_ID=102

H2169: Dental Board; Fees – see fact sheet posted at Arizona State Legislature website:

<http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/50leg/1r/su>

[mmmary/h.hb2169_04-11-11-
%20astransmittedtogovernor.doc.htm&Session_ID=102](http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/50leg/1r/summary/h.hb2169_04-11-11-%20astransmittedtogovernor.doc.htm&Session_ID=102)

H2233: Mobile Dental Facilities – see fact sheet posted at Arizona State Legislature website:
website: http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/50leg/1r/summary/h.hb2233_04-06-11_astransmittedtogovernor.doc.htm&Session_ID=102

H2372: Conservatorships; Guardianships; County Reimbursement – see fact sheet posted at Arizona State Legislature website:
http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/50leg/1r/summary/h.hb2372_04-11-11_astransmittedtogovernor.doc.htm&Session_ID=102

H2634: DHS; Health Care Institutions; Rules – see fact sheet posted at Arizona State Legislature website:
http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/50leg/1r/summary/h.hb2634_04-11-11_astransmittedtogovernor.doc.htm&Session_ID=102

Some of the bills passed and sent to the Governor (from the Council’s lists):

H2402: Guardians of Incapacitated Persons: modifies certain statutes related to the rights and duties of a ward and guardian regarding inpatient treatment for mental health care and court options regarding involuntary treatment for mental health care. Establishes guidelines for the retention or suspension of an incapacitated person’s driver license.

S1038: Assisted Living Caregivers; Regulation: transfers regulatory oversight of training programs for assisted living facilities from the Arizona Department of Health Services (DHS) and the Private Postsecondary Board (PPS Board) to the Board of Examiners of Nursing Care Administrators and Assisted Living Facility Managers (Board).

S1082: DES; fingerprinting; finger imaging: modifies the requirements for the finger imaging programs for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

S1175: Categories of Licensure; homeopaths: establishes a new licensing category of doctor of homeopathy (DH).

Bills on calendars for next week:

Monday, 4/18

H2024: Retirement; ASRS; Amendment: 4/18 Senate Committee of the Whole

H2424: Probate; Wards; Rights: 4/18 11:15 am, Senate Caucus Room

S1499: Probate; Omnibus: 4/18 House Third Reading

For a complete list and review of *all the bills* tracked this session, see the information provided at the LIST links below.

Of the bills posted, several may be of interest to Arizona seniors and have been 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 tracking lists does not represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill.** It *does* mean that the bill topic is something that is may be of interest to or have an impact on Arizona seniors so the Council is tracking the bill's progress.

SHORT LIST (Bills having to do with health and safety of older adults.)

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=24673&listid=44407&print=true>

FULL LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=24635&listid=43827&print=true>

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FEDERAL OVERVIEW:

Senate passed H.R.1473, Department of Defense and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act. The Senate and House are adjourned for two week state/district work periods.

H.R.1440

Family and Medical Leave Enhancement Act of 2011

The bill was introduced on April 4, 2011 by Representative Carolyn B. Maloney (NY-14). It amends the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 and title 5, United States Code, 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.

Eligible employees are 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 outlines limitations, requirements, defines school, community organization, and substitution of paid leave and includes entitlement of federal employees leave for parental involvement and family wellness as well.

On April 8, 2011, the bill was referred to the House Committee on Education and Workforce and in addition, the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform and House Administration.

Update on HOPE for Alzheimer's Act

H.R.1386

Health Outcomes, Planning, and Education for Alzheimer's Act

Introduced by Representative Edward J. Markey (MA-7) on April, 6, 2011, the Hope for Alzheimer's Act amends title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of comprehensive Alzheimer's disease and related dementia diagnosis and services in order to improve care and outcomes for Americans living with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias by improving detection, diagnosis, and care planning.

On 4/6/2011, H.R.1386 was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on Ways and Means.

NOTE: 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*. Did you know? You can access the latest legislative activities and visit congressional schedules and calendars under *Current Activity* on the Thomas homepage.

Contact Your Congressional Member! If you are interested in Congressional actions, 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:

The U.S. Social Security Administration's new *Boldly Go* campaign will appeal to Star Trek fans. For more information:
<http://www.socialsecurity.gov/>

From the U.S. Department of Labor -

Fall Prevention directive upheld:

<http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/osh/OSHA20110543.htm>

Information from the National Center on Senior Transportation -

Easter Seals, American Medical Association and LogistiCare to study impact of transportation access on health care:

http://projectaction.easterseals.com/site/PageServer?pagename=ESPA_study_transportation_access_health&autologin=true

*The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Highway Safety Research Center at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill developed **The Pedestrian Safety Workshop: A Focus on Older Adults**. You can download instructor guides and videos online at:*

http://www.rsa.unc.edu/psw/instructor_modules.cfm

http://www.rsa.unc.edu/psw/watching_modules.cfm

Answers to questions about long-term care are provided at the **National Institutes of Health** website: <http://nihseniorhealth.gov/longtermcare/toc.html>

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

Arizona Association of Area Agencies on Aging (AZ4A) now has an official website: <http://www.azaging.org/>.

WHAT: Pima Council on Aging Older Adult Suicide Prevention Program, Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST)

WHEN: Monday, Tuesday May 9 & 10, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Pima Council on Aging, 8467 E. Broadway, Tucson, Arizona

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/PCOASuicidePreventionBrochure0110.pdf>

WHAT: The Sacred Journey of Caregiving; A Transformational Approach to Life presented by Western Arizona Council of Governments Area Agency on Aging and the Alzheimer's Association Desert Southwest Chapter Northern Arizona Region

WHEN: May 11, 2011, 9 am to 3:00 pm, Bullhead City Chamber of Commerce, 1251 Highway 95, Bullhead City, Arizona

For more information:

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

WHAT: Caregiving Class on Memory Assistance & Planning Services (MAPS)

WHEN: April 29, 2011, 8:30 am to 3 pm, Foundation for Senior Living Caregiver House, 1202 E. Thomas Road, Phoenix, Arizona

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/April2011MapsNEWv3.pdf>

WHAT: 2011 World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Open House in Maricopa County sponsored by Maricopa Elder Abuse Prevention Alliance & Area Agency on Aging Region One.

WHEN: Wednesday, June 15th, 8:30 am to 12:00 pm, North Phoenix Baptist Church, 5757 N. Central Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/ElderAbuseAwarenessDayFlyer2011.pdf>

The Governor's Advisory Council on Aging held Senior Action Day today in Willcox, Arizona offering a chance for seniors and their advocates to share a dialogue with the Council and invited elected officials. We thank those who took time to join the discussion and share your input!

Our sincere thanks to SEAGO and Willcox United Methodist Church for helping make the event happen.

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.

This week is National Volunteer Week, and we honor all volunteers who dedicate time and energy to make their communities a good place for older Arizonans.

Thank you!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

Welcome to the Legislative Update for April 22, 2011

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. The 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!

50th Legislature First Regular Session Adjourned Sine Die

Just before 5:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 20th, both the House and Senate ended their all-night sessions and the legislative session. Before ending, 168 bills were passed and sent on to the Governor.

The Governor has 10 days after adjournment to sign, veto or allow the bills to become law without signature.

Some of the bills passed and sent to the Governor from the Council's lists:

(Note: information as posted on the Arizona State Legislature website.)

H2024: Retirement; ASRS; Amendment: Makes numerous changes to the Arizona State Retirement Statutes (ASRS) relating to administration, distribution of benefits, Long Term Disability (LTD,) employer collections, return to work, service purchase and benefit transfers. Fact sheet-4/21/2011:
http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/50leg/1r/su/mmary/h.hb2024_04-21-11_astransmittedtogovernor.doc.htm&Session_ID=102

H2402: Guardians of Incapacitated Persons: makes several changes to the statutes governing incapacitated persons including the establishment of court procedures for determining whether an incapacitated individual's privilege to drive should be suspended or retained; broadens the scope of powers for guardians; and expands the options that the court may exercise in an involuntary commitment proceeding. A link to fact sheets can be found at:
http://www.azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill_Number=HB2402&Session_ID=102

H2424: Probate; Wards; Rights: establishes a probate advocacy panel and delineates the composition of its membership. Fact sheet-4/21/2011:
http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/50leg/1r/su/mmary/h.hb2424_04-21-11_astransmittedtogov.doc.htm&Session_ID=102

H2620: Medical Records; Disclosure; Release: adds a chapter to Title 36 of the Arizona Revised Statutes relating to Health Information Organizations (HIO). HB 2620 also amends existing statutes to accommodate the exchange of electronic

health information. Fact sheet-4/14/2011:

[http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/50leg/1r/su
mmmary/h.hb2620_04-14-
11_astransmittedtogovernor.doc.htm&Session_ID=102](http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/50leg/1r/su
mmmary/h.hb2620_04-14-
11_astransmittedtogovernor.doc.htm&Session_ID=102)

S1499: Probate; Omnibus: makes numerous changes to the statutes governing the protection of persons under disability and their property. House engrossed version of fact sheet-4/18/2011:

[http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/50leg/1r/su
mmmary/h.sb1499_04-14-11_houseengrossed.doc.htm&Session_ID=102](http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/50leg/1r/su
mmmary/h.sb1499_04-14-11_houseengrossed.doc.htm&Session_ID=102)

S1593: Health Insurance; Interstate Purchase: allows foreign insurers to issue policies relating to health or sickness coverage in Arizona. House engrossed version of fact sheet-4/13/2011:

[http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/50leg/1r/su
mmmary/h.sb1593_04-13-11_houseengrossed.doc.htm&Session_ID=102](http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/50leg/1r/su
mmmary/h.sb1593_04-13-11_houseengrossed.doc.htm&Session_ID=102)

Some of the bills signed by the Governor since April 15th from the Council's lists:

(Note: information as posted on the Arizona State Legislature website.)

S1038: Assisted Living Caregivers; Regulation: transfers regulatory oversight of training programs for assisted living facilities from the Arizona Department of Health Services (DHS) and the Private Postsecondary Board (PPS Board) to the Board of Examiners of Nursing Care Administrators and Assisted Living Facility Managers (Board). Signed 4/18/2011.

S1082: DES; fingerprinting; finger imaging: modifies the requirements for the finger imaging programs for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Signed 4/18/2011.

S1175: Categories of Licensure; homeopaths: establishes a new licensing category of doctor of homeopathy (DH). Signed 4/19/2011.

For a complete list and review of *all the bills* tracked this session, see the information provided at the **SHORT & FULL LIST links below.**

Please be advised that the presence of a bill on the Council's tracking lists does not represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill. It *does* mean the bill may be of interest to older Arizonans and advocates of aging services.

SHORT LIST: those bills having to do with health and safety of older adults.

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=24673&listid=44407&print=true>

FULL LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=24635&listid=43827&print=true>

Information about the bills as presented on the Council's tracking lists is part of a purchased service provided by the *Arizona Capitol Times*.

Share your thoughts! If you have a particular perspective to share with the Governor or your legislators, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-1318 or toll-free at 1-800-253-0883 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 OVERVIEW:

The House of Representatives and the Senate are adjourned until May 2, 2011.

Prior to the break, federal deficit reduction was the focal point of actions taken. The President signed the FY 2011 budget compromise; it included a cut to the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP). The House passed a budget proposal; it impacts Medicare and Medicaid. All indications are that programs serving older adults will not be immune to any deficit reduction measures.

A side-by-side comparison of key Medicare and Medicaid changes from budget reduction proposals is provided from the Kaiser Family Foundation website:

<http://www.kff.org/medicare/upload/8124.pdf>

<http://www.kff.org/medicaid/upload/8129.pdf>

The Congressional Budget Office long-term analysis of the budget proposal presented by Chairman Paul Ryan is posted at:

<http://www.cbo.gov/doc.cfm?index=12128>

The Congressional Budget Office long-term analysis of the budget proposal presented by the President is posted at: <http://www.cbo.gov/doc.cfm?index=12130>

Share your opinions with your Congressional Members! If you are interested in Congressional actions, bills or wish to share your thoughts or concerns, find out how

to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for the **House** or <http://www.senate.gov/> for the **Senate**.

NOTE: If you want information specific to a bill, go to the Thomas website <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and enter the bill number under *Search Bill Summary & Status*. Did you know? You can access the latest legislative activities and visit congressional schedules and calendars under *Current Activity* on the Thomas homepage.

Other News:

From the **National Institute on Aging**

In May, Medicare beneficiaries will be invited to join a special study on the impact of aging-related changes on functional ability.

For more information:

<http://www.nia.nih.gov/NewsAndEvents/PressReleases/PR20110420NHATS.htm>

From the **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)**

Understanding Direct Care Workers: A Snapshot of Two of America's Most Important Jobs Certified Nursing Assistants and Home Health Aides – March 2011.

<http://aspe.hhs.gov/daltcp/reports/2011/CNAchart.pdf>

National Women's Health Week is May 8-May 14, 2011 and the **Office of Women's Health at HHS** has launched a new initiative entitled **Safety, Health for Older Women (SHOW)**. SHOW's goal is to anticipate and plan for services to address health disparities of older women. As part of the launch, OWH is focusing efforts around older women's heart health with the *Make the Call. Don't miss the Beat!* campaign. The campaign's purpose is to educate women on the symptoms of a heart attack and encourage women who may be having a heart attack to call 911 for immediate, potentially life-saving care. The 2-year campaign is targeted to women aged 50 and over, their family, friends and co-workers.

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

WHAT: Arizona Community Living NOW Education Program, Creating Real Homes for People with Disabilities

WHEN: Monday, May 2, 2 pm to 4 pm, 5 video conference sites across the state (**Tucson, Phoenix, Flagstaff, Yuma, Sierra Vista**). Locations and directions are available at <http://azcommunitylivingnow.org/> or by calling **520-626-0442**.

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/HousingTrainingMay2011Flyer.pdf>

WHAT: Arizona Senior Center Association Annual Conference, Resilience and Resurgence: Come for R & R

WHEN: Monday and Tuesday, July 18-19, 2011, Apache Gold Resort & Casino, San Carlos, AZ 85550

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/SaveTheDateRegForm2011.pdf>

Arizona Association of Area Agencies on Aging (AZ4A) has an official website: <http://www.azaging.org/>.

Just in case you're interested:

Back issues of the **Legislative Updates** are linked on the Council website at: <http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/LegUpdates.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 . Please note: we try to include events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service advocates.

Now that the 50th Legislature First Regular Session is over, we plan to offer the *Legislative Update* monthly.

Thank you and enjoy your weekend!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

Welcome to the Legislative Update for May 28, 2011

This "between sessions" *version* of our regular 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. The 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! The *Legislative Update* is currently offered monthly.

Fiscal Updates:

From the **Joint Legislative Budget Committee** (JLBC)

The JLBC May 2011 **Monthly Fiscal Highlights** reports "April was the ninth consecutive month of year-over-year growth in base General Fund revenue collections." To review economic indicators, summary of recent agency reports, and April spending, go to: <http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/mfh-may-11.pdf>.

The most recent update to the JLBC report, *Tracking Arizona's Recovery* is provided at: <http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/TrackingAZRecovery.pdf>

Legislative Wrap-Up:

You can review *all the bills* tracked this session. See the information provided at the **SHORT & FULL** List links below.

Please be advised that the presence of a bill on the Council's tracking lists does not represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill. It *does* mean the bill may be of interest to older Arizonans and advocates of aging services.

SHORT LIST: those bills having to do with health and safety of older adults.

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=24673&listid=44407&print=true>

Our intern, Jena, provided highlights of legislation on the Council's SHORT List that was signed to the Council's Legislative and Policy Coordinating Committee in May. A link to that overview is provided here:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/FinalLegUpdate.PDF>

FULL LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=24635&listid=43827&print=true>

Information about the bills as presented on the Council's tracking list is part of a purchased service provided by the *Arizona Capitol Times*.

Share your thoughts! If you have a particular perspective to share with the Governor or your legislators, you may voice your thoughts at any time by contacting the:

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-1318 or toll-free at 1-800-253-0883 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 OVERVIEW:

H.R. 1897

Alzheimer's Breakthrough Act of 2011

Introduced on May 13, 2011 by Representative Christopher H. Smith (NJ-4), the bill has 13 cosponsors.

The intent of the legislation is to amend the Public Health Service Act to require a Federal commitment to Alzheimer's disease research to advance breakthrough treatments for people living with Alzheimer's disease

On May 13, H.R. 1897 was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

H.R. 1479

Hearing Aid Assistance Tax Credit Act 2011

Introduced on April 12, 2011 by Representative Tom Latham (IA-4); the bill has 43 co-sponsors.

Hearing Aid Assistance Tax Credit Act 2011 - Amends the Internal Revenue Code to allow a nonrefundable income tax credit of up to \$500 for the purchase of a qualified hearing aid for an individual who is either: (1) age 55 or older; or (2) is claimed as a dependent of the taxpayer. Denies such tax credit to any taxpayer whose modified adjusted gross income exceeds \$200,000.

On April 12, H.R. 1479 was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. Related legislation includes Senate Bill 905.

H.R. 1606

Special Care Dentistry Act of 2011

Introduced on April 15, 2011 by Representative Eliot L. Engel (NY-17), the bill includes the finding of the United States Surgeon General's Report on Oral Health in America and amends title XIX of the Social Security Act to require States to provide oral health services to aged, blind, or disabled individuals under the Medicaid Program, and for other purposes.

On April 25, 2011, the bill was referred to the House Subcommittee on Health.

Note: a detailed summary of this legislation will appear in the next issue of the *Legislative Update*.

May 30 to June 3, 2011 - the House of Representatives and the Senate are not in session; possibly a good time to reach your congressional member in the home district.

Share your opinions with your Congressional Members!

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

NOTE: If you want information specific to a bill, go to the Thomas website <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and enter the bill number under *Search Bill Summary & Status*. Did you know? You can access the latest legislative activities and visit congressional schedules and calendars under *Current Activity* on the Thomas homepage.

Other News:

On Thursday, the Senate Special Committee on Aging held a hearing "**Meals, Rides, and Caregivers: What Makes the Older Americans Act so Vital to America's Seniors.**" Some of those speaking in support included Rosalyn Carter and Assistant Secretary Kathy Greenlee. A link to all hearing statements is provided at:

http://www.aging.senate.gov/hearing_detail.cfm?id=333014&

Budget Reductions:

Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured May 2011 report projects the state-by-state impact of converting Medicaid into a block grant

and eliminating the planned expansion of the program by repealing the health reform law, as called for under the House Budget Plan. The analysis is available at:

<http://www.kff.org/medicaid/upload/8185.pdf>

Other News:

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs announced applications for a new caregiver program: "Caregivers for Veterans of all eras are eligible for respite care, education and training on what it means to be a caregiver, how to best meet the Veteran's care needs, and the importance of self-care when in a care giving role."

For more information:

<http://www.caregiver.va.gov/>

<http://www.caregiver.va.gov/docs/CaregiverFactSheet-AllEras.pdf>

May is Older Americans Month

To read the President's proclamation, go to:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/presidential-proclamation-older-americans-month>

*From the **National Institutes of Health** – May is Healthy Vision Month*

<http://www.nih.gov/news/health/may2011/nei-12.htm>

From the Administration on Aging

May is Arthritis Awareness Month. To learn more, please visit the Arthritis Foundation website at <http://www.arthritis.org/>

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

WHAT: 2011 Statewide Symposium in Support of Service Members, Veterans & Their Families

WHEN: June 7-8, 2011, Desert Willow Conference Center, 4340 E. Cotton Center Blvd., Phoenix, Arizona 85040

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/ACMF2011SymposiumRegistrationPacket.pdf>

WHAT: 2011 Citizen Safety Forum and Expo

WHEN: June 11, 2011; 8 am to 1 pm, City of Grace Church, 655 E. University Drive, Mesa, Arizona

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/CitizenSafetyForum7.pdf>

WHAT: SEACUS Free Elder Abuse Conference

WHEN: Wednesday, June 15, Manor House, 9 am – 3pm,

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/XNLV1560.PDF>

WHAT: Arizona Senior Center Association Annual Conference, Resilience and Resurgence: Come for R & R

WHEN: Monday and Tuesday, July 18-19, 2011, Apache Gold Resort & Casino, San Carlos, AZ 85550

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/SaveTheDateRegForm2011.pdf>

Buckeye Elder Resource Group – BERG now meets at the Town of Buckeye Senior Center, 201 E. Centre, Buckeye, Arizona.

For more information:

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

From the **Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing**

Free Resource:

Hearing Aids and Personal Sound Amplifiers: Know the Difference

"Hearing Aids and Personal Sound Amplifiers: Know the Difference" is a two-page fact sheet from the Food and Drug Administration's consumer health information series. Download it free

at: <http://www.fda.gov/downloads/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/UCM187224.pdf>

Just in case you're interested:

Back issues of the **Legislative Updates** are linked on the Council website at: <http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/LegUpdates.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. Please note: we try to include events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service advocates.

During this Memorial Day weekend, be sure to take time to remember and honor all the men and women who have served and are serving our country.

Enjoy & be safe!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

Welcome to the Legislative Update for July 29, 2011

This *abbreviated version* of our regular 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. The 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!

Between sessions of the Arizona State Legislature, it is our intent to offer the *Legislative Update* monthly.

Fiscal Focus:

All eyes are on Washington as members of Congress debate raising the national debt limit and tackling the deficit. Today, the House approved a revised debt plan to raise the debt ceiling; the Senate voted to table the legislation resulting in extension of negotiations into the weekend to avoid a projected August 2nd default.

State News

Latest reports from the Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC)

The JLBC July 2011 **Monthly Fiscal Highlights** preliminary conclusions:

"With higher than expected revenues, we currently anticipate that at least \$300 million of the \$332 million budgeted shortfall will be eliminated by the time of official book closing."

The full report can be found at: <http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/mfh-jul-11.pdf>

FY 2011 Year End Revenues & Budget Update, July 27, 2011 is located at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/FY11revandbudupdateslideshow.pdf>

The most recent update to the JLBC report, **Tracking Arizona's Recovery** is provided at: <http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/TrackingAZRecovery0711.pdf>

Although the Arizona State Legislature is currently not in session, interim committee meeting agendas are posted at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/InterimCommittees.asp?Type=AGENDAS>

Share your thoughts! If you have a particular perspective to share with the Governor or your legislators *at any time*, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-1318 or toll-free at 1-800-253-0883 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 OVERVIEW:

Discussion related to the congressional debate on raising the debt ceiling and tackling reduction of the deficit:

From **Kaiser Health News** - *What Will States Do If Federal Dollars Stop Flowing?*

<http://capsules.kaiserhealthnews.org/index.php/2011/07/what-will-states-do-if-federal-dollars-stop-flowing/>

Also from **Kaiser Health News** - *Health Industry Could Feel Pinch, Then Pain From Default*

http://www.kaiserhealthnews.org/Stories/2011/July/29/default-prospects.aspx?utm_source=khn&utm_medium=internal&utm_campaign=widget

From the **National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities**

Questions & Answers related to the Debt Ceiling

http://www.nasuad.org/documentation/nasuad_materials/NASUAD's%20Questions%20%20Answers%20on%20the%20Debt%20Ceiling.pdf

Recent Legislation

H.R.2290 Social Security Caregiver Credit Act of 2011

Introduced on 6/22/2011 by Representative Nita M. Lowey (NY-18), the Act amends title II (Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance) (OASDI) of the Social Security Act with respect to determining entitlement to and the amount of any monthly benefit, including any lump-sum death payment, payable under OASDI on the basis of the wages and self-employment income of any individual. Deems such an individual to have been paid a wage (according to a

specified formula) during each month during which the individual was engaged for at least 80 hours in providing care to a dependent relative without monetary compensation for up to five years of such service. Also: makes this Act inapplicable in the case of any monthly benefit or lump-sum death payment if a larger benefit or payment would be payable without its application.

On June 22, 2011, the Act was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

H.R.2564
Elder Abuse Victims Act of 2011

Introduced on 7/15/2011 by Representative Peter T. King (NY-3), the Act establishes within the Department of Justice (DOJ) an Office of Elder Justice, which shall address issues relating to elder abuse. Requires the Director of such Office to:

- (1) provide information, training, and technical assistance to assist states and local governments in preventing, investigating, prosecuting, and mitigating the impact of elder abuse, exploitation, and neglect and in addressing the physical and psychological trauma to victims of such abuse;
- (2) evaluate the efficacy of measures intended to prevent, detect, respond to, or redress elder abuse and the extent to which the needs of the victims in each state are met by crime victim services, programs, and sources of funding;
- (3) evaluate training models to determine best practices for investigating elder abuse, addressing evidentiary and legal issues, and interacting with victims;
- 4) conduct, and regularly update, a study of state laws and practices relating to elder abuse.

Directs the Attorney General to annually:

- (1) collect from federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies and prosecutor offices statistical data relating to the incidence of elder abuse;
- (2) identify common data points among federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies and prosecutor offices that would allow for the collection of uniform national data related to elder abuse;
- (3) publish a summary of the data collected;
- (4) identify the types of elder abuse data that should be collected and what entity is most capable of collecting it; and
- (5) develop recommendations for collecting additional data.

Authorizes the Director to provide grants and technical assistance to assist not more than 15 states in establishing and operating programs designed to improve:

(1) the response to elder abuse in a manner that limits additional trauma to victims, and

(2) the investigation and prosecution of cases of elder abuse.

Requires eligible states to:

(1) have a qualified crime victims compensation program; and

(2) establish or designate a multidisciplinary task force on elder justice.

The Act amends the Social Security Act to include the Director as the alternate for the Attorney General as a member of the Elder Justice Coordinating Council.

On July 15, 2011, H.R.2564 was referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

Note: No further actions to report on H.R. 1606 Special Care Dentistry Act of 2011.

NOTE: If you want information specific to a bill, go to the Thomas website <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and enter the bill number under *Search Bill Summary & Status*. Did you know? You can access the latest legislative activities and visit congressional schedules and calendars under *Current Activity* on the Thomas homepage.

Share your opinions with your Congressional Members!

If you are interested in sharing your thoughts or concerns, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for the **House** or <http://www.senate.gov/> for the **Senate**.

You can contact the White House at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>.

A compilation of contact information is provided at: <http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml>

Other News:

From the **Administration on Aging**

This month marks the **46th anniversary of the Older American Act** that set out specific objectives for maintaining the dignity and welfare of older individuals and created the primary vehicle for organizing, coordinating and providing community-based services and opportunities for older Americans and their families.

Visit the AoA website for more information:

http://www.aoa.gov/AOARoot/AoA_Programs/OAA/Introduction.asp
[X](#)

July 26th marked the **21st anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**.

Kaiser Health Tracking Poll July 2011 – Public Opinion on Health Care Issues

<http://www.kff.org/kaiserpolls/upload/8209-F.pdf>

From the National Institutes of Health

For tips to help older adults avoid heat-related illnesses, go to:

<http://www.nih.gov/news/health/jul2011/nia-18.htm>

Ride or Relocate? Transportation and Housing Option for Senior Adults

Location: Online Transit webinar

Dates: August 3, 2011

Time: 1:00 p.m. Central

Cost: Free

For more information:

http://www.surtc.org/training/2011-08_riderelocate.php

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

WHAT: Senior and Caregiver Discussion; Navigating the Journey – "Tips and Strategies for Paying for Long Term Care Needs"

WHEN: Thursday, August 18, 2011, The Center Adult Day Care Services, 3407 N. Windsong Drive, Prescott Valley, AZ

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/Aug2011-PV.pdf>

WHAT: 6th Annual Santa Cruz Caregiver Education Conference

WHEN: August 20, 2011, Santa Cruz County Court House, Board of Supervisors' Meeting Room #118, 2150 N. Congress Drive, Nogales, AZ

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/NogalesALZConf2011Flyer.pdf>

WHAT: ArizonaSERVES Summit

WHEN: Thursday, September 8, 2011, City of Grace, Mesa, AZ

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/090811ArizonaSERVESSummit.pdf>

WHAT: NACOG Area Agency on Aging, 20th Annual Elder Issues Conference Creating Caring Communities: Opening Pathways to the Future

WHEN: September 29, 2011, High Country Conference Center, Flagstaff, AZ

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/NACOG-AAA2011Conference.pdf>

Just in case you're interested:

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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!

Enjoy your weekend,

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

Welcome to the Legislative Update for August 22, 2011

This *abbreviated version* of our regular 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. The 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!

Between sessions of the Arizona State Legislature, it is our intent to offer the *Legislative Update* monthly.

Budget News

Latest from the **Joint Legislative Budget Committee** (JLBC)

Y2012 Budget Background report:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/budgetbackground2012.pdf>

The most *recent update* to the JLBC report, ***Tracking Arizona's Recovery*** is provided at: <http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/TrackingAZRecovery0711.pdf>

Although the Arizona State Legislature is currently not in session, interim committees are meeting and agendas are posted at:

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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 OVERVIEW:

The House of Representatives is in August recess and the Senate in a state work period until September 6th.

Recent Legislation

H.R.2800

Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program Reauthorization of 2011

Introduced on August 5, 2011 by Representative Maxine Waters (CA-35), the bill has 14 cosponsors.

Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program Reauthorization of 2011:

Amends the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 to reauthorize the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program through FY2018 and to revise program requirements to:

- (1) provide for competitive grants to nonprofit organizations to assist in locating missing patients with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias;
- (2) expand such program to include locating other missing elderly individuals;
- (3) require the Attorney General to solicit grants for program applications in the Federal Register and on the Department of Justice (DOJ) website; and
- (4) establish a preference in awarding grants to national nonprofit organizations that have a direct link to patients with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias and their families (currently, grants may be awarded to only such organizations).

On 8/5/2011, H.R.2800 was referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R.2651

Ensuring the Full Faith and Credit of the United States and Protecting America's Soldiers and Seniors Act

Introduced on 7/26/2011 by Representative David Schweikert (AZ-5) with 13 cosponsors.

The intent of the bill: To require that the United States Government prioritize all obligations on the debt held by the public, Social Security benefits, and military pay in the event that the debt limit is reached, and for other purposes.

Findings:

- (1) The Secretary of the Treasury is legally required to carry out the obligations set forth in Public Law 104-121.

(2) The debt obligations held by the Social Security trust fund may only be redeemed in order to pay Social Security benefits and necessary administrative expenses.

(3) So long as there is a positive balance of assets in the Social Security trust fund, an appropriate amount of obligations may be converted into an equal amount of publicly held debt in order to finance the full and timely payment of all Social Security obligations without exceeding the debt ceiling.

Prioritize obligations on the debt held by the public, social security benefits, and military pay.

In the event that the debt of the United States Government reaches the statutory limit as defined in section 3101 of title 31, United States Code, the following shall take equal priority over all other obligations incurred by the Government of the United States:

(1) The authority of the Department of the Treasury contained in section 3123 of title 31, United States Code, to pay with legal tender the principal and interest on debt held by the public.

(2) The authority of the Commissioner of Social Security to pay monthly old-age, survivors' and disability insurance benefits under title II of the Social Security Act.

(3) The payment of pay and allowances for members of the Armed Forces on active duty

On July 26, 2011, the bill was referred to House Committee on Ways and Means.

NOTE: If you want information specific to a bill, go to the Thomas website <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and enter the bill number under *Search Bill Summary & Status*.

The **Thomas (Library of Congress) website** blogs include an explanation of the 2011 Debt Ceiling legislation process at: http://blogs.loc.gov/law/2011/08/the-curious-history-of-the-2011-debt-ceiling-legislation/?loclr=ll_t0040

Share your opinions with your Congressional Members!

If you are interested in sharing your thoughts or concerns, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for the **House** or <http://www.senate.gov/> for the **Senate**. Links to the membership lists include:

<http://www.house.gov/representatives/> for the **House** and
http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm for the **Senate**.

You can contact the White House at:
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>.

A compilation of contact information is provided at:
<http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml>

Other News:

From the **Administration on Aging**

Information about the **National Medicare Training Program** provided by **CMS:**

<http://www.cms.gov/NationalMedicareTrainingProgram/Downloads/2010ResourceSheet.pdf>

From **Medicare.gov**

Quality Care Finder tools

<http://www.medicare.gov/quality-care-finder/>

From Kaiser Health News

August 11th article on how the deficit panel Super Committee could influence cuts to Medicare and Medicaid:

<http://www.kaiserhealthnews.org/Stories/2011/August/03/debt-deal-FAQ.aspx>

Side by Side Comparison of Medicare Provisions in Deficit and Debt Reduction Proposals

<http://www.kff.org/medicare/upload/8124.pdf>

From **Social Security**

Public Affairs Specialist, Arizona - Monthly Information Package

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/sep11mip.pdf>

From <http://www.usa.gov/>

Caregiver Resources

<http://healthcare411.ahrq.gov/column.aspx?id=839>

<http://www.usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/Health/caregivers.shtml>

Penn State study regarding **adult day care** - impact on caregiver stress:

<http://live.psu.edu/story/54165>

From the Sloan Center on Aging & Work at Boston College

A Third of Unemployed Older Adults Without Health Insurance

"In addition to the difficulties caused by reduced income, roughly a third (**32%**) of older unemployed workers **no longer have any health insurance,**" according to a 2011 report on the national Work Trends survey. "One-third (33%) are enrolled in Medicare or Medicaid, another 10% have insurance through a family member, and 11% have other arrangements. Only 10% have insurance from a current employer, and 4% from a prior employer."

Van Horn, C. E., Corre, N., & Heidkamp, M. (2011). Older workers, the great recession, and the impact of long-term unemployment. New Brunswick, NJ: John J. Heldrich Center for Workforce Development, Rutgers University. Retrieved from [Heldrich Center Older Workers Brief.pdf](#)

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

WHAT: Keys to Success Unlocking critical issues involved in creating an Arizona Health Insurance Exchange provided by St. Luke's Health Initiatives

WHEN: September 16, 2011, Hyatt Regency Phoenix

To register and for more information:

<http://slhi.org/conferences/keys-to-success>

WHAT: 2011 Arizona Housing Forum; Housing in the New Economy

WHEN: September 21-23, 2011, Talking Stick Resort, SR 101 and Indian Bend Road, Scottsdale, Arizona

For more information:

<http://www.azhousing.gov/ShowPage.aspx?ID=436&CID=7>

WHAT: 2 Fit 2 Fall, Scottsdale Senior Services, Scottsdale Fire and Scottsdale Healthcare address important issues of Fall Prevention in older adults.

WHEN: Tuesday, September 27th, 11 am to 1 pm, Via Linda Senior Center, 10440 E. Via Linda, Scottsdale, AZ

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/2Fit2Fall.pdf>

WHAT: Hiring Our Heroes, Veterans Event

WHEN: September 29, 2011, 9:30 am to 4 pm, El Zaribah Shrine, 40th Street and Van Buren, Phoenix, AZ

Hiring fair for veteran job seekers, active duty military members, Guard and Reserve members and eligible spouses. Free hiring fair for both employers and job seekers.

For more information: https://www.uschamber.com/sites/default/files/hiring-our-heroes-phoenix-event-late-september_1.pdf

To register: <https://hoh.greatjob.net/sc/viewEvent.action?id=2101>

WHAT: NACOG Area Agency on Aging, 20th Annual Elder Issues Conference Creating Caring Communities: Opening Pathways to the Future

WHEN: September 29, 2011, High Country Conference Center, Flagstaff, AZ

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/NACOG-AAA2011Conference.pdf>

WHAT: ArizonaSERVES Summit

WHEN: Rescheduled to November 4-5, 2011

Save the Date Flyer:

<https://www.azdes.gov/uploadedFiles/ArizonaServes/Summit-Save-the-Date.pdf>

For more information on Arizona Serves and the summit:

https://www.azdes.gov/Arizona_Serves.aspx?menu=332&id=6626

Did you know? A listing of Yavapai County free resources for caregivers is provided in:

<http://www.seniorconnection.us/Newsletter.html>

Just in case you're interested:

Back issues of the **Legislative Updates** are linked on the Council website at:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/LegUpdates.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. Please note: we try to include events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service advocates.

Thank you!

Enjoy the rest of your summer,

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

Welcome to the Legislative Update for October 1, 2011

This *abbreviated version* of our regular 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. The 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!

Between sessions of the Arizona State Legislature, it is our intent to offer the *Legislative Update* monthly.

Fiscal News

Latest from the **Joint Legislative Budget Committee** (JLBC):

The *JLBC Monthly Fiscal Highlights September 2011* report states August revenues showed growth as base General Fund revenues (excluding one-time adjustments) were 8.6% above the prior year. General Fund revenue collections totaled \$767.2 million. To view the report, go to:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/mfh-sep-11.pdf>

The most *recent update* to the JLBC report, *Tracking Arizona's Recovery* is provided at: <http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/TrackingAZRecovery0911.pdf>

Other News

To follow the work of the **Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission**, go to: <http://www.azredistricting.org/> and visit the **Maps** link.

On Thursday, the **Governor** announced an agreement with CNN for the network to produce a debate in Arizona featuring candidates seeking the Republican nomination for president in 2012.

Although the Arizona State Legislature is currently not in session, interim committees are meeting and agendas are posted at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/InterimCommittees.asp?Type=AGENDAS>

Share your thoughts! If you have a particular perspective to share with the Governor or your legislators at any time, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-1318 or toll-free at 1-800-253-0883 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 OVERVIEW:

Bills that are expected to receive floor action this week in the Senate related to funding the federal government next federal fiscal year:

H.R.2608
H.R.2017

Active Legislation (in both the Senate Chamber and House Chamber) is posted at:

http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/legislative/b_three_sections_wit_h_teasers/active_leg_page.htm

You can find Active Legislation posted at the House of Representatives website listed later in this issue.

Important Note: Thomas, the Library of Congress website, is down October 1st and 2nd for scheduled hardware maintenance.

S.RES.284

Introduced on 9/26/2011 by Senator Herb Kohl, the resolution designates September 23, 2011, as "National Falls Prevention Awareness Day" to raise awareness and encourage the prevention of falls among older adults.

S.Res.284 was submitted in the Senate, considered, and agreed to without amendment and with a preamble by Unanimous Consent.

The **Thomas (Library of Congress) website** *blogs include an explanation of the 2011 Debt Ceiling legislation process at:*

http://blogs.loc.gov/law/2011/08/the-curious-history-of-the-2011-debt-ceiling-legislation/?loclr=ll_t0040

From Kaiser Health News

Side by Side Comparison of Medicare Provisions in Deficit and Debt Reduction Proposals

<http://www.kff.org/medicare/8124.cfm>

NOTE: If you want information specific to a bill, go to the Thomas website <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and enter the bill number under *Search Bill Summary & Status*.

Share your opinions with your Congressional Members!

If you are interested in sharing your thoughts or concerns, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for the **House** or <http://www.senate.gov/> for the **Senate**. Links to the membership lists include: <http://www.house.gov/representatives/> for the **House** and http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm for the **Senate**.

You can contact the White House at:
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>.

A compilation of contact information is provided at:
<http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml>

Other News:

From the **Administration on Aging and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** - the flu season is expected to start in October and last six months. For information, go to:

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/about/season/>

From Medicare.gov
Medicare Open Enrollment is October 15 to December 7th
To compare your current coverage with all of the options available and to enroll in a new plan, go to <http://www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan>

Call 1-800 MEDICARE (1-800-633-42270 24 hours a day/7 days a week to find out more about your coverage options. TTY users call 1-877-486-2048.

From *LeadingAge Magazine: Seniors Helping Seniors: Volunteerism Is an American Success Story*

<http://www.leadingage.org/magazine/Feature.aspx?id=3131>

Million Hearts is a national initiative to prevent 1 million heart attacks and strokes over the next 5 years. For more information:

<http://millionhearts.hhs.gov/>

From the **Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality (formerly the Office of Applied Studies) Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)**

September 1, 2011 National Survey on Drug Use and Health - *Illicit Drug Use Among Older Adults*

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

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

WHAT: Awareness Event; In recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the Area Agency on Aging invites you to come learn more about late-life domestic violence and elder abuse.

WHEN: Tuesday, October 18, 2011, 8:30 am to 11:30 am, North Phoenix Baptist Church, 5757 North Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/DVAwarenessEventFlyer2011.pdf>

WHAT: Arizona Geriatrics Society's 23rd Annual Fall Symposium The Changing Faces of Geriatrics

WHEN: Friday-Saturday, November 4-5, 2011, Desert Willow Conference Center, Phoenix, AZ

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/AzGSEmailBrochure091411.pdf>

WHAT: ArizonaSERVES Summit

WHEN: Rescheduled to November 4-5, 2011

Save the Date Flyer:

<https://www.azdes.gov/uploadedFiles/ArizonaServes/Summit-Save-the-Date.pdf>

For more information on Arizona Serves and the summit:

https://www.azdes.gov/Arizona_Serves.aspx?menu=332&id=6626

In the days ahead, the **Governor's Advisory Council on Aging will be holding Senior Action Days** that provide opportunities for seniors and their advocates to join in a dialogue with Council members, invited state legislators and local officials about issues of concern.

Wednesday, October 5, 2011, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at the Udall Center, Tucson.

Friday, October 14, 2011, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. at the Yavapai College Performance Hall, Prescott.

Monday, October 17, 2011, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. at the American Legion Post #62, Peoria/Sun City.

Wednesday, October 19, 2011, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. at the Fountain Hills Community Center.

Tuesday, October 25, 2011, 9:00 - 11:00 at the El Pueblo Senior Center, Tucson.

Tuesday, November 8, 2011, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. at the San Tan Ballroom, Sun Lakes Community Center, Sun Lakes.

If you would like more information about any of these events, contact the Council on Aging at 602-542-4710 or gaca@az.gov.

Just in case you're interested:

Back issues of the **Legislative Updates** are linked on the Council website at: <http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/LegUpdates.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. Please note: we try to include events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service advocates.

Thank you! Enjoy the fall season.

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

Welcome to the Legislative Update for December 12, 2011

This *very abbreviated version* of our regular 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. The 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!

Between sessions of the Arizona State Legislature, it is our intent to offer the *Legislative Update* monthly.

The 2nd Regular Session of the 50th Legislature starts next month. The Legislative Council's Calendar Deadlines can be found at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/alispdfs/council/CalendarDeadlines.pdf>.

Standing House and Senate Committees and members can be found at:

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

Fiscal News

Latest from the **Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC)**

The ***JLBC Monthly Fiscal Highlights November 2011*** report indicates:

"October continued the state's trend of revenue growth as base General Fund collections (excluding one-time adjustments) grew for the 15th consecutive month and were 16.6% above the prior year."

To view the report, go to: <http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/mfh-nov-11.pdf>.

The most *recent update* to the JLBC report, ***Tracking Arizona's Recovery*** is provided at: <http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/TrackingAZRecovery1111.pdf>.

Other News

The **U.S. Supreme Court** announced today that it will review and hear arguments on Arizona v. United States, 11-182.

To read the **Governor's** comments, go to:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/dms/upload/PR_121211_SupremesTakeSB1070.pdf.

Although the **Arizona State Legislature** is currently not in session, **Interim Committee meetings and agendas** are posted at: <http://www.azleg.gov/InterimCommittees.asp>.

Share your thoughts! If you have a particular perspective to share with the Governor or your legislators at any time, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-4331 or toll-free at 1-800-253-0883 (outside Maricopa County only) 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 OVERVIEW:

H.R.3546

Senior Veterans Housing Assistance Act of 2011

Introduced on December 1, 2011 by Representative Michael R. Turner (OH-3), the bill is intended to allow an occupancy preference for veterans in housing projects developed on property of the Department of Veterans Affairs with assistance provided under the Department of Housing and Urban Development program for supportive housing for very low-income elderly persons.

Occupancy Preference for Veterans

Notwithstanding section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959 (12 U.S.C. 1701q) or any other provision of law applicable to assistance under such section or to a project assisted under such section, a preference may be established for occupancy by veterans who are very low-income elderly persons in dwelling units in any supportive housing project for the elderly that-

(1) is provided assistance under such section by the Department of Housing and Urban Development; and

(2)(A) is or would be located on property of the Department of Veterans Affairs; or

(B) is subject to an enhanced use lease with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

On December 1, 2011, H.R.3546 was referred to the House Committee on Financial Services.

S.1942

Senior Transportation and Mobility Improvement Act of 2011

Introduced on December 5, 2011 by Senator Herb Kohl (WI), the bill is intended to amend title 49, United States Code, to improve transportation for seniors, and for other purposes.

On December 5, 2011, the bill was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Note: The National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD) reported the following regarding S.1942:

The bill builds upon existing public transit programs for older adults and individuals with disabilities by increasing state flexibility in implementing these federal programs, and addressing program transparency efforts by strengthening planning, data, and reporting requirements.

In part, the legislation seeks to make some changes to the Section 5310 Elderly and Disabled Program by authorizing states to use their annual allocations to assist with the costs of operating vehicles at a 50 percent federal match, and by allowing states to use up to 33 percent of any increase in their allocation for operating and maintenance needs after FY12. Additionally, the bill would provide the National Center on Senior Transportation (NCST) with additional funding to help the Center provide both technical assistance and seed grants to innovative community programs, and it would also establish a supplemental Federal Transit Association (FTA) mobility management program for older adults and people with disabilities.

NOTE: If you want information specific to a bill, go to the Thomas website <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and enter the bill number under *Search Bill Summary & Status*.

Ahead of this week's legislative deadlines, the holidays and the new year -

From **Kaiser Health News:** *Lawmakers Move Closer to Completing Legislative To Do List:*
<http://www.kaiserhealthnews.org/Daily-Reports/2011/December/12/cap-hill-to-do-list.aspx>

Share your opinions with your Congressional Members!

If you are interested in sharing your thoughts or concerns, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for the **House** or <http://www.senate.gov/> for the **Senate**. Links to the membership lists include: <http://www.house.gov/representatives/> for the **House** and http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm for the **Senate**.

You can contact the White House at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>.

A compilation of contact information is provided at:
<http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml>.

Other News:

From the **National Center on Senior Transportation**

Mobility Management grant opportunity for projects that demonstrate innovative and effective solutions to enhance the mobility of older adults through person-centered mobility management. The focus of the grants is on older adults, although projects may also target adults with disabilities. A focus on culturally and ethnically diverse older adults is strongly encouraged. Grants will be awarded for a maximum of \$50,000 and grantees will be expected to complete their work in approximately nine to twelve months. The RFP, application instructions, the application, and a budget narrative worksheet to accompany the application are available online. For more information, contact Lynn Winchell-Mendy at lwinchellmendy@n4a.org or 202-872-0888. Applications due: December 23.

On November 8th, the **Alzheimer's Association** released, **Alzheimer's from the Frontlines: Challenges a National Alzheimer's Plan Must Address**. A link to the report is provided here: http://www.alz.org/documents_custom/napareport.pdf

From the **U.S. Census Bureau - The Older Population 2010**

To view the 2010 Census Brief, go to:

<http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-09.pdf>

From **N4A** - 2010 survey of Area Agencies on Aging

http://www.n4a.org/pdf/2011_AAA_Survey_Report.PDF

From the **U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS)**

A Report on the Actuarial, Marketing, and Legal Analyses of the **CLASS Program** by HHS

<http://aspe.hhs.gov/daltcp/Reports/2011/class/index.shtml>

From the **Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)**

[Medicaid.gov](http://www.Medicaid.gov)

From the **National Institute on Aging**

Go4Life Free Publications and Guides <http://go4life.niapublications.org/print/164>

From the **National Council on Aging**

BenefitsCheckUp celebrates 10 years of providing a free, online screening service for older adults seeking information on available benefit programs for medications, food, utilities, legal, health care, housing, in-home services, taxes, transportation, and employment training. To view the website, go to: <http://www.benefitscheckup.org/>

From the National Institutes of Health

Research in Action - Key Hearing Proteins Identified:

<http://www.nih.gov/researchmatters/december2011/12052011hearing.htm>

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

WHAT: Fall Prevention Free Workshop (attendees receive a Fall Prevention Resource Toolkit)

WHEN: December 14, 1 - 2 pm, Adult Center of Prescott, 1280 E. Rosser Street. Presented by ResCare HomeCare in collaboration with Banner Good Samaritan Medical Center, John C. Lincoln Hospital and The Brain Injury Association of Arizona.

For more information: (928) 778-3000

WHAT: *Transportation for the Underserved - without a ride, life unravels* (West Valley Human Services Alliance)

WHEN: Friday, February 10, 2012, 9 am to 4 pm, Desert Springs Community Church, 14440 West Indian School Road, Goodyear, Arizona 85395

Registration at: <http://wvhsa.acfbci.org/>

WHAT: 24th Annual Arizona Indian Council on Aging Conference "Elders Holding our Nations Together"

WHEN: March 12 to 15, 2012, The Westin La Paloma Resort & Spa, 3800 East Sunrise Drive, Tucson, AZ 85718

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/2012AICOAConfSaveTheDate.pdf>

Here is a link to a free newsletter for Caregivers with resources targeting northern Arizona:

<http://www.caregiverconnection.us/>.

The **Governor's Advisory Council on Aging** wishes to thank those who participated in the seven **Senior Action Days** held in **2011**. Our intent was to provide opportunities for seniors and their advocates to join in a dialogue with Council members, invited state legislators and local officials about issues of concern. We're pleased to have had participation by state legislators, county supervisors, local mayors and city council members, and staff from Senator Kyl's office at these events. The Advisory Council on Aging uses the input received from these events to help shape priorities for the work of the Council's Committees and provides the input to administration, the legislature and state agencies.

Just in case you're interested:

Back issues of the **Legislative Updates** are linked on the Council website at:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/LegUpdates.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. Please note: we try to include events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service advocates.

Best wishes for the holiday season and a very happy new year to all!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging