

Welcome to the Legislative Update for February 17, 2012

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!

2nd Regular Session of the 50th Arizona State Legislature

Today marked the deadline for Senate bills to be heard in Senate Committees and House bills to be heard in their committees triggering considerable activity this week. Since February 9th, 972 floor actions were filed; 89 of those related to legislation tracked by the Council on Aging. (See **FULL LIST** link)

More information regarding deadlines can be found on the Senate calendar at: <http://www.azleg.gov/alispdfs/50leg/senate/senatedeadlines.pdf>

the House calendar at: <http://www.azleg.gov/alispdfs/50leg/house/housedeadlines.pdf>

Legislation:

Legislative action on a few of the bills tracked by the Council on Aging is outlined here and found on the **FULL LIST**.

H2526: Skilled Nursing Home Provider Assessments, 2/15 House Health & Human Services Committee amended; report awaited.

- 2/16 Fact Sheet (from azleg.gov website):
http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/50leg/2r/suimary/h.hb2526_02-15-12_approps.doc.htm&Session_ID=107

H2713: Arizona Long-Term Care Trust, 2/15 from House Health & Human Services Committee as amended.

- Approved amendment: <http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/adopted/h.2713-se-hhs.pdf>
- 2/15 summary for House Appropriations Committee:
http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/50leg/2r/suimary/h.hb2713_02-15-12_approps.doc.htm&Session_ID=107
- Proposed amendment:
<http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/proposed/h.2713ca.pdf>

S1177: DES Contractors; Unpaid Personnel; Fingerprinting, 2/16 Senate Committee of the Whole (COW) approved with amendment.

HCR2058: HURF; Monies; Allowable Uses, 2/16 from House Transportation with do pass.

Others that may be of interest:

H2791: Limitation on State Expenditures, 2/16 from House Appropriation with amendment.

- 2/16 Fact Sheet:
http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/50leg/2r/summary/h hb2791_02-16-12_caucuscow.doc.htm&Session_ID=107

H2571: Public Employees; Unlawful Acts; Termination

- 2/16 Fact Sheet:
http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/50leg/2r/summary/h hb2571_02-13-12_era.doc.htm&Session_ID=107

Hearings next week:

A few of the hearings scheduled next week on legislation tracked on the Council's **FULL LIST** are listed below.

S1004: Dental Hygienists; Local Anesthetics, House Health & Human Services Committee, 2/22 at 9 am, House Room 4.

S1473: AHCCCS; Dental Care; Contractor, Senate appropriations 2/21 at 2 pm, Senate Room 109.

Be sure to check all the summaries and listing of hearings and committee meetings found at the **FULL LIST** link below.

At the end of day 40 of the legislative session, 1,373 bills posted; 2 passed; 1 signed by the Governor, 140 memorials or resolutions posted; 8 passed. 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.

FULL LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=24822&listid=45455&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/or 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*.

At this time, both the House and the Senate are adjourned until 1:30 pm on Monday, February 20, 2012.

Other News

Information on **Personnel Reform** is posted at the Governor's website:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/PersonnelReform.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.

If you would like to learn more about how a bill becomes law, see these links at the Arizona State Legislature's website: <http://www.azleg.gov/alisPDFs/BillToLaw.pdf> and <http://www.azleg.gov/alisPDFs/hbillaw.pdf>.

If you want to know who serves on the House and Senate Standing Committees, go to: <http://www.azleg.gov/StandingCom.asp> and click on the committee name.

FEDERAL OVERVIEW:

H.R.3790

Improving Cancer Treatment Education Act of 2012

Introduced on 1/18/2012 by Representative Steve Israel (NY-2)

H.R.3790 amends title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide comprehensive cancer patient treatment education under the Medicare Program and to provide for research to improve cancer symptom management.

On 1/20/2012, H.R.3790 was referred to the House Subcommittee on Health.
Related bills: H.R.3622

H.R.3819

Health Freedom for Seniors Act

Introduced on 1/24/2012 by Representative Bill Huizenga (MI-2)

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the transfer of required minimum distributions from a retirement plan to health savings account.

On 1/24/2012, bill referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

Also: On Monday, the **President's Fiscal Year 2013 Budget Request** was released. For more information, go to: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/Overview>.

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:

**Administration on Aging
New Resource Tool for Alzheimer's and Dementia Staff**

For the fourth year, the National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners (NCCDP) is offering *The National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners Alzheimer's and Dementia Staff Education Week February 14th to the 21st Toolkit*. The toolkit includes PowerPoint In-services Training on a number of topics for health care staff, and all include pre-test, post-

test, hand outs, answers, in-service evaluation, and in-service certificates. The Toolkit is free and available at: <http://www.nccdp.org/>.

To learn more about NCCDP and Alzheimer's and Dementia Staff Education Week, go to <http://www.nccdp.org/>.

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

Health Care Fraud Prevention and Enforcement Efforts Result in Record-Breaking Recoveries Totalling Nearly \$4.1 Billion:

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2012pres/02/20120214a.html>

Note: **SMP - Senior Medicare Patrol** programs help Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries prevent, detect and report health care fraud. Persons interested in becoming a volunteer with SMP can contact their location Area Agency on Aging for more information and to fill out an application. To find your local Area Agency on Aging in Arizona, go to:

http://www.azaging.org/AZ_Area_Agencies_on_Aging.php

More information regarding SMP is also available through the Division of Aging and Adult Services at the Arizona Department of Economic Security (602)-542-4446.

Also announced by **HHS** this week:

Increase in use of health information technology by physicians and hospitals

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2012pres/02/20120217a.html>

Action to ensure equal access for the deaf and the hard of hearing

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2012pres/02/20120217c.html>

National Alzheimer's Project Act Website <http://aspe.hhs.gov/daltcp/napa/>

Some responses to the President's FY 2013 budget request:

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

http://www.nasuad.org/documentation/nasuad_materials/Preliminary%20Draft%20of%20the%20Presidents%20Proposed%20FY13%20Budget.pdf

NASUAD funding request:

http://www.nasuad.org/documentation/nasuad_materials/NASUAD's%20FY13%20Proposed%20Budget%20Chart.pdf

From **Reconnecting America**

Summary and Analysis of the President's Fiscal Year 2013 Budget Request:
<http://reconnectingamerica.org/assets/Uploads/FY2013BudgetAnalysis.pdf>

From the **National Council on Aging (NCOA)** *Aging Programs Funding* chart:

<http://www.ncoa.org/assets/files/pdf/FY13-Request.pdf>

From the **National Institutes for Health**

NIHSeniorHealth: <http://nihseniorhealth.gov/>

In case you didn't see this earlier, the U.S. Census Bureau's report issued in November 2011 on our nation's 90+ population:

<http://www.census.gov/prod/2011pubs/acs-17.pdf>

More resources from the **Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records:**
<http://www.lib.az.us/azlibrary/res.aspx>

Also: **Social Security Updates** from Sandra R. Pérez, Social Security Public Affairs Specialist in Arizona

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/2012/SocialSecurityUpdates021712.pdf>

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

WHAT: Free Webinar – *Breaking the Poverty Cycle: Creating Social and Economic Opportunities* – SAMHSA Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

WHEN: Tuesday, February 28, 2012; 3 pm to 4:30 pm EST

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/2012/BreakingThePovertyRegistrationFlyer.pdf>

WHAT: SCAMS - Elder Abuse – Life Care Planning; What You Need to Know
presented by the Arizona State Attorney General's Office

February 28, 2012 –

9:00 am, Kingman, Kathryn Heidenreich Center, 1776 Airway, Suite A

2:00 pm, Bullhead City, Nutrition Center, 2275 Trane Rd.

February 29, 2012

9:00 am, Lake Havasu City Senior Center, 450 S. Acoma Blvd.

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/2012/AGPresentationFlyerMOHAVE.pdf>

February 29, 2012

2:00 pm, Parker – Parker Senior Center, 1115 12th Street

March 1, 2012

10:00 am, Quartzsite, Town Hall, 465 N. Plymouth Avenue

For more

information: <http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/2012/AGPresentationFlyerLAPAZ.pdf>

WHAT: Understanding the Legislative Process

WHEN: March 27, 2012, 10 am to 2:30 pm, Parker Senior Center, 1115 12th Street, Parker, Arizona

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/2012/LegislativeTrainingParkerFlyer.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, be sure to send 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.

Enjoy your weekend!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging