

Welcome to the Legislative Update for February 5, 2010

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 during the 49th Legislature 2nd Regular Session. *The Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* Thank you for your interest!

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Budget Update:

This week, the Governor called a Sixth Special Session. To view the proclamation outlining the subjects of the Special Session, go to:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/dms/upload/PR_020110_SpecialSessionCallFor020110.pdf

Eight bills and three memorials/resolutions have been posted during this Special Session; S1001 and SCR1001 passed. S1001 establishes procedures for a special statewide election on May 18, 2010. SCR1001 puts the question of whether to impose a one percentage point increase in the transaction privilege tax or sales tax on the special election ballot. Both await the Governor's signature. A Sixth Special Session tracking list has been created. To view the summaries of the legislation posted, click on the list below:

6th Special Session Tracking List

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=24532&listid=42089&print=true>

To read the Governor's remarks regarding actions taken this week in the Sixth Special Session, visit:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/dms/upload/PR_020410_StatementByGovBrewer.pdf

The Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) analysis of bills posted in the Special Session can be found at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/6thSpecialSessionProposedFiscalImpact.pdf>

The January 2010 Monthly Fiscal Highlights from JLBC indicates year-to-date revenues are (16.7)% below the prior year and \$(554.5) million below the budget forecast. The report is posted at:

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

State Legislation:

At the end of day twenty six of the 2010 Arizona Legislative Session, 1,142 bills have been posted; 134 memorials or resolutions have been posted, two bills have passed and two memorials or resolutions has passed.

This week the following actions were filed on legislation tracked by the Council:

H2026: Advisory Council on Aging; Continuation; 2/2/ passed the House; ready for Senate.

H2028: Hard of Hearing Commission; Continuation; 2/2 passed the House; ready for Senate.

H2029: Dept. of Health Services; Continuation; 2/2 passed House; ready for Senate.

H2132: Medicare Supplement; End-Stage Renal Disease; 2/1 held in House Banking and Insurance Committee.

H2443: Health Care Coverage; Choice; 2/3 held in House Health & Human Services Committee.

H2469: Certified Medication Assistants; 2/3 from house Health & Human Services Committee with amendment

S1278: Senior Village; Incorporation: Sr. Development; 2/1 referred to Senate Finance.

S1298: End-of-Life Options; Right to Know; 2/1 Referred to Senate

S1327: Dental Hygienists; Public Agencies; 2/3 Referred to Senate Healthcare & Medical Liability Reform.

No hearings posted for next week on bills being tracked by the Council on Aging;

To view all of the legislation being tracked by the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging, click on the list below:

FULL LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=24520&listid=40701&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 be expanded as we have an opportunity to get through all of the bills, and 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*.

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, for the 2nd Regular Session and the Sixth Special Session, until Monday, February 8, 2010.

If you have a particular perspective to share about the budget process or legislation, you can voice your opinions to:

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

Or you may contact the Legislator from your area. You can **locate your legislator** by going to the **Arizona State Legislature website** <http://www.azleg.gov/> and looking for: **How do I find My Legislators** or by following the instructions provided at both the Senate and House Member links at the website.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

H.R.4591

Older Worker Opportunity Act of 2010

H.R. 4591 was introduced on 2/3/2010 by Representative Joe Sestak (PA-7); there are no cosponsors.

The intent of the bill is to promote labor force participation of older Americans, with the goals of increasing retirement security, reducing the projected shortage of experienced workers, maintaining future economic growth, and improving the Nation's fiscal outlook.

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H.R.4591:

Flexible Work Credit

The flexible work credit determined under this section for the taxable year shall be equal to 25 percent of the qualified wages for such taxable year.

Duration of Program- The program shall allow for participation for a period of at least 1 year.

No Change in Health Care Benefits- With respect to a participant whose work schedule is no less than 20 percent of the work schedule of a similarly situated full-time employee

No Forfeiture of Pension Benefits- The pension benefits of a participant shall not be forfeited under the rules of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 with respect to a participant who has attained normal retirement age as of the end of the plan year.

Effective Date- The amendments made by this section shall apply to wages paid after December 31, 2009.

Federal Task Force on Older Workers

Establish no later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

The Task Force shall be composed of representatives from all relevant Federal agencies that have regulatory jurisdiction over, or a clear policy interest in, issues relating to older workers.

The activities of the Task Force shall be:

- identify statutory and regulatory provisions in that tend limit opportunities for older workers, and develop legislative and regulatory proposals to address such limitations;
- identify best practices in the private sector for hiring and retaining older workers, and
- assess the effectiveness and cost of programs that Federal agencies have implemented to hire and retain older workers, and
- recommend cost-effective programs for all Federal agencies to hire and retain older workers.

On 2/3/2010 the bill was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Education and Labor.

Other News:

The FY2011 budget released by the President this week contains \$1.625 billion for the Administration on Aging. The budget is posted at:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/Appendix/>

To access the Administration on Aging FY2011 Budget Request, go to:

<http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/About/Budget/DOCS/FY2011AoAOnlinePerformanceAppendixFinal.pdf>

The National Institute on Aging (NIA) recently announced a commitment of more than \$36.7 million over the next five years to support and expand its Center on the Demography and Economics of Aging. For more information, visit:

<http://www.nia.nih.gov/NewsAndEvents/PressReleases/PR20091124Demography.htm>

Information & Resources:

WHAT: Alzheimer's Disease Free Public Workshop

WHEN: Friday, February 12, 2010, 2-4:30 pm, Wells Fargo Conference Center, 100 W. Washington St, Room A, Phoenix, AZ 85003

To register or for more information **call 602-239-6500**

WHAT: 2010 Behavioral Health and Older Adults Conference

WHEN: February 12, 2010; 8:00 am 4:45 pm; Hilton El Conquistador Resort, 10000 North Oracle Road, Tucson, Arizona

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/BehavioralHealthOlderAdultsConf2010.pdf>

WHAT: 2010 Scam Jam & Shred-a-Thon

WHEN: March 3, 2010, 9:30 am 1:00 pm, Peoria Senior Center, 8335 West Jefferson, Peoria, AZ; Space is limited for this free event.

For more information

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/ScamJam2009Flyer.pdf>

WHAT: Sierra VistAbility Day

WHEN: Saturday, March 27, 2010, 10:00 am 2:00 pm, Ethel Berger Center, 2950 E. Tacoma Street, Sierra Vista, AZ 85635

For more information: <http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/CoDIFlyer.pdf>

WHAT: Arizona Living Well Save the Date!

WHEN: April 9, 2010, 8:00 am 4:00 pm, Desert Botanical Garden, 1201 North Galvin Parkway, Phoenix, AZ

For more information:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/documents/legupdates/AZLWI_SVTD_1_19_10.pdf

WHAT: SAVE THE DATE Disability Empowerment Center 2010 Health and Wellness Fair

WHEN: Saturday, April 10, 2010; 10 am 3 pm; Disability Empowerment Center (DEC) 5025 E. Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ 85034

For more information:

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

WHAT: TimeOUT Workshop Featuring Mental Health Issues in the Elderly

WHEN: Thursday, May 6, 2010, Hansen Mortuaries, 6500 E. Bell Rd, Scottsdale, AZ

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/TimeoutFlyerRegFormMay2010.pdf>

WHAT: Save the Date - Hard of Hearing Training for Professionals sponsored by The Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing

WHEN: Thursday, May 27, 2010, 8:00 am 5:00 pm, University of Arizona, Tucson

For more information: call 602.542.3323 V; 602.364.0990 TTY or check the website: www.acdhh.org

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration, you can do so by sending an email with the description to: gaca@az.gov . Please note: we try to include events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service advocates.

Thank you and have a good week!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging