

## Welcome to the Legislative Update for February 19, 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**

The following budget information was posted this week:

The Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) report: *6<sup>th</sup> Special Session Fiscal Impact As Enacted*, can be found at:

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

A five-year budget plan, produced outside the legislature and presented this week in a hearing by JLBC staff, can be viewed at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/5yearplan.pdf>

#### **State Legislation:**

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

**H2276:** Access to Agency Data; Legislators - 2/17 from House Government Committee do pass

**H2426:** Adult Guardianship & Protective Proceedings - 2/18 House Committee of the Whole approved

Hearings posted for next week on bills being tracked by the Council on Aging:

**S1278:** Senior Village; Incorporation; Sr. Development, 2/24/2010 Senate Finance, 1:30 pm, Senate Rm. 3

Note: You can find the agendas for these hearings and check to see if the times have changed or committees have been cancelled at the *Arizona State Legislature* website: <http://www.azleg.gov/>

Committee Agenda link:

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

At the end of day 40 of the 2010 Arizona Legislative Session, 1,232 bills have been posted; 154 memorials or resolutions have been posted, two bills passed and three memorials or resolutions passed.

**Session Deadlines** - Today, February 19<sup>th</sup> marks the last day for Senate Committees to hear Senate bills and House Committees to hear House bills.

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.* 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 until Monday, February 22, 2010.

*New faces* in the Legislature include Representative Amanda Reeve in District 6 who filled the position formerly held by Sam Crump, Senator Ed Bunch of District 7 who filled the position formerly held by Jim Waring, and Senator David Braswell of District 6 who filled the position formerly held by Pam Gorman.

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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.

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**FEDERAL LEGISLATION:**

**S.B. 2958  
Caregiver Assistance and Relief Effort (CARE) Act Reintroduced**

S.B. 2958 was introduced on 1/27/2010 by Senator Robert Menendez (NJ); there are no cosponsors.

The intent of the bill is to provide funding and incentives for caregiver support and long-term care assistance.

Caregiver Assistance and Relief Effort Act of 2010 or the CARE Act of 2010 - amends the Older Americans Act of 1965 to increase and extend, through FY2014, the authorization of appropriations for the national family caregiver support program, including caregiver support programs for Native Americans.

S.B. 2958:

Amends the Internal Revenue Code to:

- (1) allow caregivers a tax credit for family members with long-term care needs;
- (2) allow a tax deduction for long-term care insurance premiums;
- (3) apply certain consumer protection provisions to long-term care insurance contracts.

Credit for taxpayers with long-term care needs

Allowance of Credit - There shall be allowed as a credit against the tax imposed by this chapter for the taxable year an amount equal to the applicable amount multiplied by the number of applicable individuals with respect to whom the taxpayer is an eligible caregiver for the taxable year.

Limitation Based on Adjusted Gross Income - The amount of the credit allowable shall be reduced (but not below zero) by \$100 for each \$1,000 by which the taxpayer's modified adjusted gross income exceeds the threshold amount.

Eligible Caregiver- A taxpayer shall be treated as an eligible caregiver for any taxable year with respect to the taxpayer and the taxpayer's spouse and dependents.

Effective Date- The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2009.

On 1/27/2010 the bill was read twice and referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.

H.R. 1192, related legislation, was introduced on 2/25/09 by Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX-30) and was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

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If you want more information specific to this or any bill, go to the Thomas website <http://www.thomas.gov/> and enter the bill number under *Search Bill Summary & Status*.

**Contact Your Congressional Member:** If you are interested in Congressional bills or wish to share your thoughts or concerns, 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.

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**Other News:**

A new alliance, consisting of health, consumer and aging advocates, has been formed to address quality of care in long-term care services provided in any setting. For more information about the **Long-Term Quality Alliance**, go to: <http://www.ltqa.org/>

Administration on Aging is soliciting input regarding the **reauthorization of the Older Americans Act**. To read more about the process and learn how you can participate, go to: [http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA\\_Programs/OAA/Reauthorization/Index.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/AoA_Programs/OAA/Reauthorization/Index.aspx)

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**Information & Resources:**

**WHAT: The Brain Injury Association of Arizona, Wear Blue Day**

**WHEN: March 15, 2010**

For more information, go to: <http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/WearBlueDayFlyer2010.pdf>

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**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](http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/documents/legupdates/AZLWI_SVTD_1_19_10.pdf)

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**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>

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**WHAT: Crime Victims Rights: Fairness, Dignity, Respect**

**WHEN: April 19, 2010,** 9:00 am, Carnegie Center, 1101 West Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85007

For more information:

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

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**WHAT: 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Arizona Indian Council on Aging Conference, Our Elders: Living Treasures**

**WHEN: April 19-22, 2010,** Radisson Ft. McDowell Resort & Casino, 10438 N. Ft. McDowell Road, Fountain Hills, AZ 85264

For more information:

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

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**Senior Anti-Crime University**

Free classes to learn how to avoid scams, prevent fraud and stay safe:

**Senior Anti-Crime University - Sierra Vista**

March 18, 2010  
1 p.m. to 5 p.m.  
Sierra Vista at  
Cochise College  
901 N. Colombo Avenue

**Senior Anti-Crime University - Sun Lakes**

March 24, 2010  
8 a.m. to noon  
Sun Lakes at  
Chandler-Gilbert Community College  
Sun Lakes Center  
25105 S. Alma School Road

**Senior Anti-Crime University - Green Valley**

April 7, 2010  
Noon to 4 p.m.

Green Valley at  
La Posada  
635 Park Centre Avenue

For more information and to register for any of these events, visit:  
<http://www.azag.gov/seniors/sleuths/sacu.html>

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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](mailto:gaca@az.gov) . Please note: we try to include events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service advocates.

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**Thank you and have a good week!**

**~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging**