

Welcome to the Legislative Update for September 3, 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. *Between legislative sessions, the Legislative Update is provided monthly with a federal focus.* This information is intended to help you shape your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts so that you can ensure your perspective and voice are heard. *The Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* Thank you for your interest!

General Overview:

State Budget

The **Joint Legislative Budget Committee** August 27, 2010 **Budget Status Update** has been posted. A link to the report is provided here:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/budgetstatus082710.pdf>.

The July **JLBC Monthly Fiscal Highlights** is also available at:

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

To review the most recent **JLBC Federal Assistance Report**, go to:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/federalassistanceupdate8-10.pdf> .

Other News

All the **statewide primary election results** are posted at the **Secretary of State's** website and can be accessed at:

<http://results.enr.clarityelections.com/AZ/19539/32544/en/summary.html>.

Information about the **ballot measures** is provided at:

<http://www.azsos.gov/election/2010/General/BallotMeasures.htm>.

Voter Information is available at:

<http://www.azsos.gov/election/VoterInformation.htm>.

If you have a particular perspective you wish to share, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

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

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

Federal Legislation:

H.R.5305 CPI for Seniors Act of 2010

Sponsored by Representative John J. Duncan, Jr. (TN-2), the bill was introduced on May 13, 2010 and has five cosponsors: Representative Michael A. Arcuri (NY-24), Representative Marcia L. Fudge (OH-11), Representative Gregg Harper (MS-3), Representative Daniel Lipinski (IL-3), and Representative Zachary t. Space (OH-18).

CPI for Seniors Act of 2010:

Directs the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) of the Department of Labor to prepare and publish a monthly index, to be known as the Consumer Price Index for Seniors (CPI-S), that indicates monthly changes in expenditures for consumption that are typical for individuals in the United States who are 62 years of age or older.

On 6/29/2010, the bill was referred to the Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R.5950 Improving Access to Medicare Coverage Act of 2010

Introduced by Representative Joe Courtney (CT-2) on July 29, 2010, the bill is cosponsored by Representative John B. Larson (CT-1).

The purpose of H.R. 5950 is to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to count a period of observation status in a hospital exceeding 24 hours toward satisfying the 3-day inpatient hospital requirement for coverage of skilled nursing facility services under Medicare.

Section 1: Improving Access to Medicare Coverage Act of 2010

Section 2: Counting a period of observation status in a hospital exceeding 24 hours toward the 3-day inpatient hospital requirement for coverage of skilled nursing facility services under Medicare.

(a) In General- Section 1861(i) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(i)) is amended by adding at the end the following: "For purposes of this subsection, an individual who is in a period of observation status in a hospital that exceeds 24 hours shall be deemed to have been an inpatient during such period of observation status and the individual's leaving the hospital after such period of status shall be treated as a discharge from the hospital."

(b) Effective Date- The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to periods of observation status beginning on or after January 1, 2010, but applies to a period of post-hospital extended care services that was completed before the date of the enactment of this Act only if an administrative appeal is or has been made with respect to such services not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Health and Human Services may implement such amendment through an interim final regulation, program instruction, or otherwise.

On 7/29/2010, the bill was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

For specific information on any federal legislation, enter the bill number or description under Search Bill Summary & Status on the Thomas website: <http://www.thomas.gov/>.

Note: Congress returns from August recess on September 13, 2010.

To read about current activity and legislation in Congress, see the **Current Activity** section and the **Weekly Top Five** in the right column of the Thomas homepage.

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

Other News:

The **U. S. Department of Health and Human Services'** Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, AHRQ, has the guide *Taking Care of Myself: A Guide for When I Leave the Hospital* available online. Information about the guide can be found at: <http://www.ahrq.gov/qual/goinghomeguide.htm>.

Also, information on the new Early Retirement Reinsurance Program is posted at: http://www.healthcare.gov/news/factsheets/early_retiree_reinsurance_program.html.

From **the National Center on Senior Transportation:**

Older Driver Safety and Transition for the Mature Driver

http://seniortransportation.easterseals.com/site/DocServer/Older_Driver_Safety_Mature_Driver_.pdf?docID=139587

Older Driver Safety and Transition for the Aging Network:

http://seniortransportation.easterseals.com/site/DocServer/Older_Driver_Safety_Aging_Network.pdf?docID=139586

The **Arizona Fall Prevention Coalition** will celebrate **National Fall Prevention Day** with an event on **September 22, 2010** at Banner Good Samaritan Medical Center in Phoenix from 10 am 12:30 pm. For information about the Coalition, to learn more about the event and to access valuable resources, visit: <http://www.azstopfalls.org/>.

Event flyers are posted at:

http://azgovernor.gov/aging/Documents/NFPDay2010_English.pdf

and http://azgovernor.gov/aging/Documents/NFPDay2010_Spanish.pdf.

From the **Arizona Department of Health Services**

Two new aging resources are posted on the **Arizona Living Well (AzLW) Program** website : <http://www.azlivingwell.com/>.

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

WHAT: Diagnosis and Treatment of Parkinson's Disease and Alzheimer's Disease

WHEN: Saturday, September 11, 2010; 8 am - Noon, Cochise College, SUB Room, 901 North Colombo Avenue, Sierra Vista, AZ

For more information:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/SV_Alzheimers_Ad_Col or.pdf

WHAT: Working with Domestic Violence Survivors with Mental Health Issues,

Regional Training, Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence

WHEN: September 15, 2010; 8:30 am - 12:30 pm, Kingman Regional Medical Center, Kingman, AZ; **November 2, 2010;** 8:30 am - 12:30 pm, 2800 N. Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ; **November 17, 2010,** 8:30 am - 12:30 pm, United Methodist Church, Globe, AZ

For more information specific to these dates and locations:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/RegionalThree2010.pdf>

WHAT: 7th Annual Conference on Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia in Native Americans

WHEN: Friday, September 24, 2010; 7:30 am - 3:15 pm, Radisson Fort McDowell, 10438 N. Fort McDowell Road, Fort McDowell, Arizona

For more information:

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

WHAT: Area Agency on Aging, Region One Open House in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month

WHEN: Tuesday, October 5, 2010, 11 am - 2pm, 1366 E. Thomas Road, Phoenix, AZ 85014

For more information:

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

WHAT: Northern Arizona Council of Governments Area Agency on Aging 19th Annual Elder Issues Conference, *Creating Caring Communities Helping Seniors Help Themselves*

WHEN: Wednesday, October 6, 2010; High Country Conference Center, 201 West Butler Avenue, Flagstaff AZ 86001

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/RegistrationBrochureA2010Final.pdf>

WHAT: TIMEOUT Workshop featuring Common Ethical Dilemmas

WHEN: Thursday, November 4, 2010, 8 am - 12:30 pm, Hansen Mortuaries, 6500 E. Bell Road, Scottsdale.

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/TimeOutFlyerReqFormSession2v3.pdf>

WHAT: 15th annual Family Caregiver Conference, A Caregivers Harvest:
Hope & Support

WHEN: Friday, November 12, 2010, 7:30 am - 3:30 pm, Doubletree Hotel,
445 S. Alvernon Way, Tucson, AZ

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/CaregiverConfBrochure111210.pdf>

Note: The *Legislative Update* will be provided again next month.

Thank you! Have a safe and enjoyable Labor Day holiday weekend.

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging