

## 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:**

**1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](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>

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### **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>

**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*.

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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:

**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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**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.

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**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.

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## **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.

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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.

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**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#](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#)

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**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](http://www.cdc.gov/heartdisease/american_heart_month.htm?source=govdelivery)

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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>

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**WHAT: 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](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](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**