

Welcome to the Legislative Update for February 18, 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:

On Monday, February 14th, the Governor called a **2nd Special Session** of the 50th Legislature.

The proclamation outlining the intent of the special session is provided at:

http://azgovernor.gov/dms/upload/Proc_021411_2ndSpecialSession_50thLegislature.doc.pdf .

On Wednesday, **H2001: Arizona Commerce Authority; Business Incentives** passed the House and was substituted in the Senate for S1001 then passed before adjournment of the special session. On Thursday, the Governor signed H2001. Information about the bill, as posted on the Arizona State Legislature's website, is available at:

http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/50leg/2s/su/mmary/h.hb2001_02-15-11_houseengrossed.doc.htm

Other news:

Conversations continued around the Governor's request for a waiver from the maintenance of effort requirements of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. The February 15th letter from Secretary of Health & Human Services Kathleen Sebelius to the Governor is linked here:

http://azgovernor.gov/dms/upload/PR_021511_SebeliusLetter.pdf

Governor Brewer's statement regarding the letter can be found at:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/dms/upload/PR_021511_Sebelius.pdf

From the Joint Legislative and Budget Committee -

JLBC *Monthly Fiscal Highlights* for January 2011 reports that the general fund budget shortfall is projected to be \$(530) million in fiscal year 2011 and \$(975) million in fiscal year 2012. The report is provided at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/mfh-jan-11.pdf>

JLBC presentations to the Appropriations Committees are posted at:

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

JLBC Training Arizona's Recovery (1/31/2011) report can be found at:

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

STATE LEGISLATION:

Legislative action taking place on *some* of the 59 bills the Council is tracking:

H2091: Nurses: Continuing Education: from House Health and Human Services Committee with amendment on 2/17.

H2156: Dental Hygienists; Supervision Requirements: from House Health and Human Services Committee with amendment on 2/17.

H2233: Mobile Dental Facilities: from House Health and Human Services Committee with amendment on 2/17.

H2402: Incapacitated Persons; Guardians: from House Judiciary Committee as amended on 2/17.

H2530: Dental Board; from House Health and Human Services with amendment 2/17.

H2651: AHCCCS; Veterans: from House Health and Human Services with a do pass recommendation on 2/17.

H2726: Retirement Systems; Plan Design: from House Employment and Regulatory Affairs Committee on 2/17.

Some of the HEARINGS scheduled next week:

H2156: Dental Hygienists: Supervision Requirements: House Rules on 2/21 at 1:00 pm, House Rm. 4.

H2233: Mobile Dental Facilities: House Rules 2/22 at 1:00 pm, House Rm 4.

H2634: DHS; Health Care Institutions; Rules: 2/21 House Committee of the Whole (COW) calendar.

H2651: AHCCCS; Veterans: House Appropriations 2/23 at 2:00 pm, House Rm. 1.

S1043: Nursing Care Administrators; Continuation: House Health and Human Services 2/23 at 9:30 am, House Rm. 4.

For a complete list of legislative action and hearings on all the bills being tracked, see the information provided at the FULL LIST link below.

At the end of day 40, 1,335 bills posted and **six passed, five signed**; 135 memorials or resolutions posted, 10 passed. 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 lists 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.

SHORT LIST – those bills having to do with health and safety of older adults

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=24673&listid=44407&print=true>

FULL LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=24635&listid=43827&print=true>

Note: The SHORT LIST and FULL LIST website links above provide 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. ***These lists will continue to be edited and updated as the legislative session continues.*** Note: Information about bill status, hearing, etc. is a purchased service provided by the *Arizona Capitol Times*.

(To learn more about the legislative process, see the *Bill Process* link <http://www.azleg.gov/alisPDFs/hbillaw.pdf> or *Bill to Law* link <http://www.azleg.gov/alisPDFs/BillToLaw.pdf> at the Arizona State Legislature website.)

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.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

H.R. 610***Making Investments Now for Dementia Act of 2011***

The bill was introduced on February 10, 2011 by Representative Michael C Burgess (TX-26). The bill authorizes the issuance of United States bonds to fund Alzheimer's research. Proceeds are authorized to be appropriated to the Director of the National Institutes of Health for research under title IV of the Public Health Service Act and used solely for Alzheimer's research.

On February 10, 2011, the bill was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

H.R.539***Preserving Our Promise to Seniors Act***

Introduced on 2/8/2011 by Representative Theodore E. Deutch, (FL-19), the bill has nine cosponsors.

Preserving Our Promise to Seniors Act - Directs the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) of the Department of Labor to prepare and publish for each calendar month a Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers (CPIEC) that indicates changes over time in consumption expenditures typical for individuals in the United States 62 years of age or older.

Amends title II (Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance) (OASDI) of the Social Security Act to tie the CPIEC to computation of cost-of-living increases in OASDI benefits.

Directs the Secretary of the Treasury to disburse a cash payment of \$250 (adjusted for inflation) for each non-COLA year to certain recipients of OASDI benefits, railroad retirement benefits, veterans disability compensation or pension benefits, or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits under SSA title XVI.

Amends the Internal Revenue Code to prescribe special rules for the determination of wages and self-employment income above the contribution and benefit base after 2011.

Amends SSA title II to include surplus average indexed monthly earnings (AIME) in the determination of primary OASDI amounts.

Develops points of order in the House of Representatives and the Senate with respect to consideration of any legislation whose effect would be a program: (1) reducing OASDI benefits in connection with contributions to individual beneficiary accounts in the private sector; or (2) providing for investment of amounts in the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund in any investment vehicle other than interest-bearing U.S. obligations or U.S.-guaranteed obligations.

On February 8, 2011, the bill was referred to House Committee on Ways and Means, Committees on Education and the Workforce, Rules, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Veterans' Affairs.

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.

Other News:

From the **Alzheimer's Association**

Generation Alzheimer's – The Defining Disease of the Baby Boomers

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/ALZBoomersReportFINAL012411.pdf>

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Older Driver Program, Five-Year Strategic Plan 2012–2017 explores the safety needs of older drivers.

View the report at: <http://www.nhtsa.gov/staticfiles/nti/pdf/811432.pdf>

From the **U.S. Department of Health & Human Services**

National Vaccine Plan can be found at:

http://www.hhs.gov/nvpo/vacc_plan/

From the EPA:

Building Healthy Communities - Sustainable Communities

Applications for 5th annual Building Healthy Communities for Active Aging - due July 11, 2011.

For more information, go to:

<http://www.epa.gov/aging/bhc/awards/index.htm>

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

Pima Council on Aging Older Adult Suicide Prevention Program

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/PCOASuicidePreventionBrochure0110.pdf>

WHAT: Arizona Geriatrics Society 4th Annual Spring Geriatric Mental Health & Aging Conference

WHEN: Friday, April 8, 2011; Crowne Plaza Phoenix, 2532 W. Peoria Avenue, Phoenix, AZ

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/AzGSSpringEmailBrochure2011.pdf>

WHAT: TIMEOUT Workshop; Hoarding: The Best Kept Secret

WHEN: Tuesday, May 17, 2011; Civic Center Library, 2829 N. Drinkwater Blvd., Scottsdale, AZ 85251

For registration and more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/2011TimeOutFlyer.pdf>

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