

Welcome to the Legislative Update for April 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. The 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!

50th Legislature First Regular Session Adjourned Sine Die

Just before 5:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 20th, both the House and Senate ended their all-night sessions and the legislative session. Before ending, 168 bills were passed and sent on to the Governor.

The Governor has 10 days after adjournment to sign, veto or allow the bills to become law without signature.

Some of the bills passed and sent to the Governor from the Council's lists:

(Note: information as posted on the Arizona State Legislature website.)

H2024: Retirement; ASRS; Amendment: Makes numerous changes to the Arizona State Retirement Statutes (ASRS) relating to administration, distribution of benefits, Long Term Disability (LTD,) employer collections, return to work, service purchase and benefit transfers. Fact sheet-4/21/2011:

http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/50leg/1r/su/mmary/h.hb2024_04-21-11_astransmittedtogovernor.doc.htm&Session_ID=102

H2402: Guardians of Incapacitated Persons: makes several changes to the statutes governing incapacitated persons including the establishment of court procedures for determining whether an incapacitated individual's privilege to drive should be suspended or retained; broadens the scope of powers for guardians; and expands the options that the court may exercise in an involuntary commitment proceeding. A link to fact sheets can be found at:

http://www.azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill_Number=HB2402&Session_ID=102

H2424: Probate; Wards; Rights: establishes a probate advocacy panel and delineates the composition of its membership. Fact sheet-4/21/2011:

http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/50leg/1r/su/mmary/h.hb2424_04-21-11_astransmittedtogov.doc.htm&Session_ID=102

H2620: Medical Records; Disclosure; Release: adds a chapter to Title 36 of the Arizona Revised Statutes relating to Health Information Organizations (HIO). HB 2620 also amends existing statutes to accommodate the exchange of electronic

health information. Fact sheet-4/14/2011:

http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/50leg/1r/summary/h.hb2620_04-14-11_astransmittedtogovernor.doc.htm&Session_ID=102

S1499: Probate; Omnibus: makes numerous changes to the statutes governing the protection of persons under disability and their property. House engrossed version of fact sheet-4/18/2011:

http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/50leg/1r/summary/h.sb1499_04-14-11_houseengrossed.doc.htm&Session_ID=102

S1593: Health Insurance; Interstate Purchase: allows foreign insurers to issue policies relating to health or sickness coverage in Arizona. House engrossed version of fact sheet-4/13/2011:

http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/legtext/50leg/1r/summary/h.sb1593_04-13-11_houseengrossed.doc.htm&Session_ID=102

Some of the bills signed by the Governor since April 15th from the Council's lists:

(Note: information as posted on the Arizona State Legislature website.)

S1038: Assisted Living Caregivers; Regulation: transfers regulatory oversight of training programs for assisted living facilities from the Arizona Department of Health Services (DHS) and the Private Postsecondary Board (PPS Board) to the Board of Examiners of Nursing Care Administrators and Assisted Living Facility Managers (Board). Signed 4/18/2011.

S1082: DES; fingerprinting; finger imaging: modifies the requirements for the finger imaging programs for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Signed 4/18/2011.

S1175: Categories of Licensure; homeopaths: establishes a new licensing category of doctor of homeopathy (DH). Signed 4/19/2011.

For a complete list and review of *all the bills* tracked this session, see the information provided at the **SHORT & FULL LIST links below.**

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 the bill may be of interest to older Arizonans and advocates of aging services.

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>

Information about the bills as presented on the Council's tracking lists is part of a purchased service provided by the *Arizona Capitol Times*.

Share your thoughts! If you have a particular perspective to share with the Governor or your legislators, 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 OVERVIEW:

The House of Representatives and the Senate are adjourned until May 2, 2011.

Prior to the break, federal deficit reduction was the focal point of actions taken. The President signed the FY 2011 budget compromise; it included a cut to the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP). The House passed a budget proposal; it impacts Medicare and Medicaid. All indications are that programs serving older adults will not be immune to any deficit reduction measures.

A side-by-side comparison of key Medicare and Medicaid changes from budget reduction proposals is provided from the Kaiser Family Foundation website:

<http://www.kff.org/medicare/upload/8124.pdf>

<http://www.kff.org/medicaid/upload/8129.pdf>

The Congressional Budget Office long-term analysis of the budget proposal presented by Chairman Paul Ryan is posted at:

<http://www.cbo.gov/doc.cfm?index=12128>

The Congressional Budget Office long-term analysis of the budget proposal presented by the President is posted at: <http://www.cbo.gov/doc.cfm?index=12130>

Share your opinions with your Congressional Members! If you are interested in Congressional actions, bills or wish to share your thoughts or concerns, find out how

to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for the **House** or <http://www.senate.gov/> for the **Senate**.

NOTE: If you want information specific to a 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.

Other News:

From the **National Institute on Aging**

In May, Medicare beneficiaries will be invited to join a special study on the impact of aging-related changes on functional ability.

For more information:

<http://www.nia.nih.gov/NewsAndEvents/PressReleases/PR20110420NHATS.htm>

From the **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)**

Understanding Direct Care Workers: A Snapshot of Two of America's Most Important Jobs Certified Nursing Assistants and Home Health Aides – March 2011.

<http://aspe.hhs.gov/daltcp/reports/2011/CNAchart.pdf>

National Women's Health Week is May 8-May 14, 2011 and the **Office of Women's Health at HHS** has launched a new initiative entitled **Safety, Health for Older Women (SHOW)**. SHOW's goal is to anticipate and plan for services to address health disparities of older women. As part of the launch, OWH is focusing efforts around older women's heart health with the *Make the Call. Don't miss the Beat!* campaign. The campaign's purpose is to educate women on the symptoms of a heart attack and encourage women who may be having a heart attack to call 911 for immediate, potentially life-saving care. The 2-year campaign is targeted to women aged 50 and over, their family, friends and co-workers.

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

WHAT: Arizona Community Living NOW Education Program, Creating Real Homes for People with Disabilities

WHEN: Monday, May 2, 2 pm to 4 pm, 5 video conference sites across the state (**Tucson, Phoenix, Flagstaff, Yuma, Sierra Vista**). Locations and directions are available at <http://azcommunitylivingnow.org/> or by calling **520-626-0442**.

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/HousingTrainingMay2011Flyer.pdf>

WHAT: Arizona Senior Center Association Annual Conference, Resilience and Resurgence: Come for R & R

WHEN: Monday and Tuesday, July 18-19, 2011, Apache Gold Resort & Casino, San Carlos, AZ 85550

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/SaveTheDateRegForm2011.pdf>

Arizona Association of Area Agencies on Aging (AZ4A) has an official website: <http://www.azaging.org/>.

Just in case you're interested:

Back issues of the **Legislative Updates** are linked on the Council website at: <http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/LegUpdates.asp>

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.

Now that the 50th Legislature First Regular Session is over, we plan to offer the *Legislative Update* monthly.

Thank you and enjoy your weekend!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging