

Welcome to the Legislative Update for January 20, 2012

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!

Monday, January 9, 2012 marked the opening of the Second Regular Session of the 50th Arizona State Legislature. Since that time, 847 floor actions were filed; 126 of those related to legislation being tracked by the Council on Aging. (See **FULL LIST** link)

Monday, January 23rd marks the deadline for House members to submit bill requests to the Legislative Council. Other legislative calendar deadlines can be found at: <http://www.azleg.gov/alispdfs/council/CalendarDeadlines.pdf>.

State Legislation:

Legislative action on just a few of the bills the Council is tracking:

S1004: Dental Hygienists; Local Anesthetics authorizes dental hygienists to administer local anesthetics to patients (adults) who have been examined by a dentist within the previous year if no change in the patient's medical history and the supervising dentist approved the patient for local anesthetics. 1/19 passed Senate 28-0; ready for House.

S1172: Transportation of Patients; Requirements states that certified ambulance providers transporting a patient in response to a call made to 911 or another emergency telephone number are only required to transport the patient to the closest appropriate emergency receiving facility capable of meeting the patient's needs.

H2199: I Didn't Pay Enough Fund from voluntary contributions is moved from the Department of Revenue to the Department of Health Services and DHS is to use 50 percent of monies in the Fund to provide medicine to mentally ill persons and 50 percent of the monies to provide medicine to minors suffering from a chronic illness.

H2208: Local Transportation Assistance Fund; Restoration was referred to the House Appropriations Committee on 1/17.

Hearings next week:

S1098: Dependent Children; Placement; Grandparents; Stipend provides a monthly stipend of \$75 for grandparents having dependent children placed with them. 1/25 Senate *Public Safety & Human Services Committee at 9:00 am, Senate Room 3.*

S1189: Health Professionals; State Regulation; Exception allows health professional who provides services at a free medical clinic to do so without being licensed in this state if the professional holds an active license in another jurisdiction in the U.S., provides a copy of that license to the clinic and provides only the services authorized by that jurisdiction's

regulatory agency. 1/25, Senate Healthcare & Medical Liability Reform Committee at 2:00 pm, Senate Room 1.

H2095: Firearms Regulation; Planned Communities; 1/24, House Government Committee at 2:00 pm, House Room 4.

Tuesday, January 24th, the JLBC Budget Presentations to the Senate Committee on Appropriations includes the Departments of Economic Security and Health Services. Agenda: <http://www.azleg.gov/agendas/01240154107.pdf>

Wednesday, January 25th, the House Committee on Appropriations includes the JLBC Budget Presentations for DES and DHS. Agenda: <http://www.azleg.gov/agendas/01250101107.pdf>

At the end of day twelve, 873 bills posted; 78 memorials or resolutions posted; 1 passed. Several of the bills 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 likely to 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=24822&listid=45455&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/or 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*.

At this time, both the House and the Senate are adjourned until 1:30 pm on Monday, January 23, 2012.

Fiscal News

Latest from the **Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC)**

The ***JLBC Monthly Fiscal Highlights January 2012*** report indicates:

"Year-to-date for the first half of FY 2012, revenues are \$204 million above forecast."

To view the report, go to: <http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/mfh-jan-12.pdf>

The most *recent update* to the JLBC report, ***Tracking Arizona's Recovery*** is provided at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/TrackingAZRecovery0112.pdf> .

The Governor's Fiscal Year 2013 Budget Information is posted at:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/Priorities/BudgetInfo.asp>

Share your thoughts! If you have a particular perspective to share with the Governor or your legislators at any time, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-4331 or toll-free at 1-800-253-0883 (outside Maricopa County only) 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:

H.R.3546

Senior Veterans Housing Assistance Act of 2011

Introduced on 12/1/2011 by Representative Michael R. Turner (OH-3), the bill is intended to allow an occupancy preference for veterans in housing projects developed on property of the Department of Veterans Affairs with assistance provided under the Department of Housing and Urban Development program for supportive housing for very low-income elderly persons.

On January 12, 2012 the bill was referred to the Subcommittee on Insurance, Housing and Community Opportunity.

H.R.3749

Expanding Opportunities for Older Americans Act of 2011

Introduced on 12/20/2011 by Representative Laura Richardson (CA-37), the bill amends the Older Americans Act of 1965 to expand the Senior Community Service Employment Program.

On December 20, 2011, H.R.3749 was referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

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*.

Update on NAPA – National Alzheimer’s Project Act

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS)

Framework for the National Alzheimer’s Plan:

<http://aspe.hhs.gov/daltcp/napa/Framework-Draft.pdf>

Share your opinions with your Congressional Members!

If you are interested in sharing 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**. Links to the membership lists include: <http://www.house.gov/representatives/> for the **House** and http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm for the **Senate**.

You can contact the White House at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>.

A compilation of contact information is provided at:

<http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml>.

Other News:

National Council on Aging offers a new website dedicated to helping those coping with chronic conditions: <http://www.restartliving.org/index.php>.

Also tips on protecting yourself from scams: http://www.ncoa.org/enhance-economic-security/economic-security-Initiative/top-8-ways-to-protect.html?utm_source=NCOAWeek_120117&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=NCOAWeek

From the **National Center for Senior Transportation (NCST)** ideas on partnerships between public transportation and aging service providers in the December 2011 newsletter:

http://seniortransportation.easterseals.com/site/DocServer/NCST_Today_Dec2011_Final.pdf?docID=147342

From the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a)

Winter Warmth and Safety: Home Energy Tips for Older Adults brochure:
<http://www.n4a.org/pdf/HomeEnergyTips.pdf>

From the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** warnings on the impact of binge drinking that includes older adults:
<http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/BingeDrinking/index.html>

From the **National Conference of State Legislatures and the AARP Public Policy Institute** *Aging in Place: A State Survey of Livability Policies and Practices*
<http://assets.aarp.org/rqcenter/ppi/liv-com/aging-in-place-2011-full.pdf>

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

WHAT: *Transportation for the Underserved - without a ride, life unravels* (West Valley Human Services Alliance)

WHEN: Friday, February 10, 2012, 9 am to 4 pm, Desert Springs Community Church, 14440 West Indian School Road, Goodyear, Arizona 85395

Registration at: <http://wvhsa.acfbci.org/>

WHAT: Ben Behind His Voices One Family's Journey from the Chaos of Schizophrenia to Hope, evening with author, educator and advocate Randy Kaye

WHEN: Thursday, March 8, 2012, 6:00 to 7:30 pm, ASU Phoenix Downtown campus, A.E. England Building, 424 N. Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85004

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/2012/RandyKayeMarch8thFlyer.pdf>

WHAT: 24th Annual Arizona Indian Council on Aging Conference "Elders Holding our Nations Together"

WHEN: March 12 to 15, 2012, the Westin La Paloma Resort & Spa, 3800 East Sunrise Drive, Tucson, AZ 85718

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/2012AICOAConfSaveTheDate.pdf>

WHAT: Implementing Rural Transit Technology Course Offering presented by National Transit Institute

WHEN: March 27 & 28, 2012 in Phoenix, AZ

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/2012/RuralTransitFlyer.pdf>

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.

Enjoy your weekend!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging