

Welcome to the Legislative Update for February 20, 2015

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. The purpose of this service is to keep older Arizonans and advocates of aging services informed about bills and actions taking place at the Arizona State Legislature and to highlight federal legislation or activities affecting older Americans. The information is intended to help you shape your own opinion about an issue and 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!

Legislature in Full Swing

Since our last issue on February 6th, 1,545 floor actions have been filed; 49 of those related to legislation tracked on the Council's [FULL LIST](#).

Summary

As of day 40, 1,138 bills posted; five (5) bills passed; two signed; 83 memorials or resolutions posted and three (3) passed.

Recent Action on Highlighted Bills

HCR2029: persons with disabilities; employment; support – 2/19 passed House 57-0; ready for Senate

House Summary (2/19/15) [here](#)

H2171: lifespan respite care; program termination – 2/10 from House Children and Family Affairs Committee with do pass

House Summary (2/10/15) [here](#)

H2626: Arizona silver haired legislature – 2/12 referred to House Government and Higher Education and Appropriations Committees

Summary: Establishes the Arizona Silver Haired Legislature, a nonpartisan panel consisting of Arizona citizens who are at least 60 years of age and who are elected by their peers, to identify and discuss policy issues and annually submit its recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature. The panel terminates on July 1, 2023. Appropriates \$60,000 from the general fund in FY2015-16 to the panel.

Introduced version [here](#)

SR1002: seventieth birthday; fund-raiser for charity – 1/29 unanimously adopted by Senate; to Secretary of State

Senate engrossed version [here](#)

S1136: nursing facility assessment; continuation – 2/19 Senate Committee of the Whole/COW approved with amendment

Senate Fact Sheet (1/29/15) [here](#)

S1149: Arizona medical board; fingerprinting; disclosure – 2/18 signed by the Governor

Chaptered version [here](#)

S1194: medically underserved areas; loan repayment – 2/19 substituted in House for identical H2495 and passed 57-0; ready for the Governor

Senate Fact Sheet (2/16/15) [here](#)

NOTE: Bill summaries provided by Arizona State Legislature website or *Arizona Capitol Reports*.

Hearings Next Week

H2021: adult protective services; information online – 2/25 Senate Health & Human Services Committee at 2:00 pm, Senate Rm. 1

S1282: teledentistry; dental hygienists; dental assistants – 2/23 Senate Rules Committee at 1:00 pm, Senate Caucus Rm. 1

S1404: health care directives; conflicts – 2/23 Senate Rules Committee at 1:00 pm, Senate Caucus Rm. 1

You can see all actions and hearings scheduled for bills being tracked by the Advisory Council on Aging at the top of the report when opening the **FULL LIST** link below.

Some of this session's bills may be of interest to older Arizonans and will be tracked by the Council and appear on the *Legislative Updates* web report page. Please be advised that the presence of a bill on a tracking list does not represent support or opposition by the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. It does mean that the topic is something that is likely to be of interest to or have an impact on older Arizonans.

FULL LIST link: <http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=25423&listid=55049&print=true>

Note: the **FULL LIST** web report 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 updated throughout the session. Information about bill status, hearings, etc. is a purchased service provided by *Arizona Capitol Reports*.

ALSO: You can find information on any bill at the Arizona State Legislature's [Bills Search](#) page.

Schedules

Arizona State Legislature ALIS Today calendar linked [here](#)

Senate Weekly Schedule linked [here](#)

House Weekly Schedule linked [here](#)

Deadlines

Today, 2/20 marks the last day for House consideration of House bills and Senate consideration of Senate bills.

Senate [2015 Session Timeline](#)

House [Important Deadlines](#)

A list of the Representatives and Senators, Standing Committees and their members can be found on the Arizona State Legislature [website](#) at the following links:

[Members of the House](#)

[Members of the Senate](#)

[Standing Committees](#) (Be sure to click on the committees to view the members as well as any posted meeting agendas or minutes for that committee.)

Fiscal News

From the **Joint Legislative Budget Committee**

JLBC Staff Presentation to the Appropriations Committees 2/17/15 linked [here](#).

Tracking Arizona’s Recovery February 2015 linked [here](#).

Share your thoughts! If you have a particular perspective to share with the Governor or your Legislators, you can voice your opinions by contacting the:

- **Governor’s Office of Constituent Services** at 602-542-4331 in Phoenix, 520-628-6580 in Tucson and in-state toll free at 1-800-253-0883 (outside Maricopa County only) or
- The **legislator(s) from your area**. You can locate your legislator by going to the **Arizona State Legislature [website](#)** and looking for: **How do I find My Legislators?** on the left side of the webpage.
- Not sure about your congressional or legislative district? **Maps** can be found on the Arizona State Legislature website linked [here](#).

Website Resources

Need to learn more about the legislative process? See [Arizona Bill](#) or **Bill to Law** provided [here](#).

Learn about the budget process [here](#).

Review the Arizona Constitution [here](#).

Learn more at Frequently Asked Questions linked [here](#).

FEDERAL OVERVIEW:

Updates on legislation:

S.192

A bill to reauthorize the Older Americans Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

Introduced on 1/20/2015 by Senator Lamar Alexander (TN)

Note: Summary reported to Senate 2/3/15

Sec. 3) Amends the Older Americans Act of 1965 (OAA), with respect to the Administration on Aging, to require the Director of the Office of Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs to collect and analyze best practices related to responding to elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation in long-term care facilities, and publish a report of such best practices.

Makes it a duty and function of the Administration to: (1) provide information and technical assistance to states, area agencies on aging, and service providers, in collaboration with relevant federal agencies, on delivering efficient person-centered transportation services, including across geographic boundaries; (2) identify model programs and provide information and technical assistance to the same entities to support modernization of multipurpose senior centers; and (3) provide technical assistance to and share best practices with states, area agencies on aging, and Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) on how to collaborate and coordinate services with health care entities in order to improve care coordination for individuals with multiple chronic illnesses.

Directs the Assistant Secretary of Aging to: (1) develop, when feasible, a consumer-friendly tool to assist older individuals and their families in choosing home and community-based services, with a particular focus on ways for consumers to assess how providers protect the health, safety, welfare, and rights of older individuals; and (2) ensure that programs authorized under the OAA include training in the prevention of abuse, neglect, and exploitation and provision of services that address elder justice and exploitation of older individuals.

Requires ADRCs to provide information and referrals regarding available home and community-based services for individuals who are at risk for residing in, or who reside in, institutional settings, so that the individuals have the choice to remain in or to return to the community.

Extends through FY2018 the authorization of appropriations for the Administration, including the Eldercare Locator Service and pension counseling and information programs.

(Sec. 4) Reauthorizes appropriations for FY2016-FY2018 for: (1) specified supportive services, (2) congregate nutrition services, (3) home delivered nutrition services, (4) disease prevention and health promotion services, and (5) family caregiver support.

Revises requirements for allotments to states to prohibit any allotment of less than: (1) 99% of the allotment for the previous year for each of FY2016-FY2018; or (2) 100% of the FY2018

allotment for FY2019 and each subsequent fiscal year.

Reauthorizes appropriations for FY2016-FY2018 for the Nutrition Services Incentive Program.

Requires an area agency on aging plan to: (1) support modernization of multipurpose senior centers (including a plan to use the skills and services of older individuals in paid and unpaid work, including multigenerational and older individual to older individual work); and (2) arrange to increase public awareness of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and remove barriers to education, prevention, investigation, and treatment of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

Directs the Assistant Secretary to make grants to states for supportive services that include chronic condition self-care management and falls prevention services. Requires health screening services to include: (1) mental and behavioral health screening and falls prevention screening; as well as (2) screening for elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

Requires state nutritional projects to: (1) encourage the use of locally grown foods in meal preparations, and (2) contract with local producers and providers of locally grown foods.

Specifies that grants to states to provide, at multipurpose senior centers, at congregate meal sites, through home delivered meals programs, or at other appropriate sites disease prevention and health promotion services and information (as under current law) must be evidence-based.

Modifies the National Family Caregiver Support Program, making permanent the funding for the caregiver allotment. Redesignates grandparents and older individuals who are relative caregivers "older relative caregivers."

(Sec. 5) Authorizes the Assistant Secretary to make grants for continuing support for program integrity initiatives concerning the Medicare program that train senior volunteers to prevent and identify health care fraud and abuse.

Extends through FY2018 training, research, and discretionary projects and programs grant programs relating to older Americans.

Requires that specified grants and contracts provide for national trainings for directors of grant programs on aging instead of (as currently) an annual national meeting to train such directors.

Repeals the restriction of certain grants to national nonprofit organizations experienced in providing nationwide support and technical assistance to entities interested in the legal rights of older individuals. Allows such grants to go to any nonprofit organization so experienced.

Repeals certain grants for multidisciplinary centers and multidisciplinary systems, computer training, and ombudsman and advocacy demonstration project.

(Sec. 6) Extends through FY2018 the authorization of appropriations for community service senior opportunities programs.

(Sec. 7) Extends through FY2018 the authorization of appropriations for grants for the delivery of supportive services, including nutrition services to older American Indians, Alaskan Natives, and Native Hawaiians.

(Sec. 8) Revises requirements for ombudsman programs and vulnerable elder rights protection activities, among other changes: (1) extending a State Long-Term Care Ombudsman's responsibility to any resident of a long-term care facility regardless of age; (2) making the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman responsible for the management, including fiscal management, of his or her Office; and (3) requiring the Ombudsman, when feasible, to continue to carry out certain functions on behalf of residents transitioning from a long-term care facility to a home

care setting.

Requires the State Ombudsman and any designated local Ombudsman entity to identify, investigate, and resolve complaints of any residents of a long-term care facility, including residents with limited or no decisionmaking capacity and who have no known legal representative.

Requires a state to ensure that the access of Office representatives to long-term care facilities and residents be private and unimpeded.

Considers the Ombudsman and an Office representative to be a "health oversight agency" for purposes of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) so that release of residents' individually identifiable health information to the Ombudsman or representative is not precluded in cases in which specified requirements are otherwise met.

Revises conflict of interest requirements in the designation of an Ombudsman and any situation in which the Office is placed in a state organization.

Requires a state agency on aging to: (1) promote the submission of data on elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation for appropriate Administration or other designated databases; and (2) support and study innovative practices in communities to develop elder justice partnerships across disciplines for the prevention, investigation, and prosecution of abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

(Sec. 9) Includes behavioral health in programs for mental health.

(Sec. 10) Directs the Assistant Secretary for Aging to issue guidance to states on serving Holocaust survivors.

H.R.988

To Reauthorize Elder Justice Act of 2009

Introduced on 2/13/15 by Representative Peter T. King (NY-2)

On 2/13/15, referred to the House Education and the Workforce

ALSO:

H.R.786

To improve access, certainty, and innovation with respect to vaccines

Introduced on 2/5/15 by Representative Renee Elmers (NC-2)

Text of bill [here](#)

On 2/5/15, referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on Ways and Means.

If you want to check on the status of any federal legislation, go to <http://beta.congress.gov/>

and enter the bill number or title.

Check for **active federal legislation** at this [link](#).

Share your opinions with members of Congress!

If you are interested in sharing your thoughts or concerns, find out how to contact your congressional representatives or Senators by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for the **House** or <http://www.senate.gov/> for the **Senate**.

Links to the membership lists are provided below.

[House](#) members

[Senate](#) members

You can contact the White House at this [link](#).

ALSO: A compilation of contact information is provided at: <http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml>.

NEWS & RESOURCES

From **National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities/NASUAD**

Friday Updates, February 20, 2015

Oversight Hearing on Serving Aging & Disabled Communities

Next **Thursday, February 26 at 10:00 a.m. ET**, the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations will hold an oversight hearing, "The Vital Responsibility of Serving the Nation's Aging and Disabled Communities," in 2358-C Rayburn Building. Hearing witnesses include Carolyn W. Colvin of the Social Security Administration and Kathy Greenlee of the Administration for Community Living.

[Click here](#) to access details on the hearing.

Webinar: ID/D and Dementia: Experiences of a Family Advocate & Promising Practices

On **Thursday, February 26 from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET**, the National Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Center (formerly the ADSSP National Resource Center) will host *Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Dementia: Experiences of a Family Advocate and Promising Practices*. This webinar will provide participants with information on personal experiences, advocacy efforts, and helpful practices for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (ID/D) and dementia. Presenters will speak to personal experiences as a guardian and an advocate for family members and people with ID/D and dementia as well as speak about promising practices of how to work with people with ID/D and dementia.

[Click here](#) to view details on the webinar.

White House Conference on Aging information [here](#).

From the **Alzheimer’s Association**

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

[**Changing the Trajectory of Alzheimer’s Disease: How a Treatment by 2025 Saves Lives and Dollars**](#). You can find the summary, appendices and quick facts as well at this link: http://alz.org/alzheimers_disease_trajectory.asp#summary.

National Alzheimer’s Project Act

Updated information can be found at: <http://aspe.hhs.gov/daltcp/napa/#102714Mtg>.

(Be sure to scroll up and down the page for information.)

From **Kaiser Health News**

FRONTLINE CHAT: “How Would You Spend Your Final Days?” 2/12/15 [here](#)

States Add Dental Coverage for Adults on Medicaid But Struggle To Meet Demand [here](#)

Other coverage of aging and long-term care [here](#)

From the **National Eye Institute**

“To help raise awareness about low vision and the benefits of vision rehabilitation, the National Eye Health Education Program (NEHEP) has developed an [English](#)- and [Spanish-language drop-in article](#), a [Valentine’s Day infographic](#), [infocards](#), and a [low vision infographic](#). Use these resources on your websites and social media pages to help raise awareness about how people with low vision can maintain their independence and quality of life.

In addition, you can visit the [NEHEP Low Vision Education Program](#) page for booklets, videos, and a PowerPoint presentation you can use to educate people in your community about low vision and more.”

IN CASE YOU MISSED THIS

Department of Justice

Financial Exploitation Frequently Asked Questions/FAQs

<http://www.justice.gov/elderjustice/financial/faq.html>

Elder Justice Initiative website: <http://www.justice.gov/elderjustice/>

INFORMATION & RESOURCES

WHAT: Hospice of the Pines Offering Choices...Honoring Wishes

WHEN: Monday, February 23, 2015, 1:00 to 3:00 pm, Cottonwood Village Assisted Living and Independent Living, 201 E Mingus Avenue, Cottonwood, AZ 86336

More information found [here](#).

Starting March 11, 2015

The University of Arizona College of Medicine Phoenix

Mini Medical School Community Lecture Series information found [here](#).

WHAT: The Senior Connection's Senior & Caregiver Conference& Expo

WHEN: Friday, March 13, 2015, 10 am to 3 pm, Liberty Traditional School, 3300 N Lake Valley Road, Prescott Valley

More information provided [here](#).

WHAT: Arizona Geriatrics Society 8th Annual Spring Geriatric Mental Health Aging Conference, *Building Bridges & Embracing Humanity*

WHEN: Friday, April 24, 2015, 8 am to 5 pm, Community Partnership of Southern Arizona Training Center, Tucson

More information [here](#)

Coming later this spring

Arizona Transit Association

2015 AZTA/ADOT conference April 12 – 15, 2015

More information [here](#)

Just in case you're interested

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

You can help circulate resource information. If you would like to submit an **educational** or **public service event** for consideration, be sure to send an email with the description and a link or pdf document to: gaca@az.gov. (Please note: we try to include resources and events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service advocates and refrain from including fundraising or marketing materials.)

Have a good weekend!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging



If you wish to be REMOVED from or know someone who would like to be ADDED to the Update, please send an email to: gaca@az.gov and ask to be unsubscribed or subscribed to the **Legislative Update**.

Governor's Advisory Council on Aging
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