

## Welcome to the Legislative Update for March 23, 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!

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### SUMMARY

As of **day 71**, 1,163 bills posted; 66 passed, 28 signed, 88 memorials or resolutions posted and 18 passed.

### Recent action on tracked bills

**H2021: adult protective services, information online** – 3/17 stricken from Senate consent calendar by Senator Barto

**H2170: lifespan respite care program; appropriation** – 3/4 House Committee of the Whole approved with amendment #4527 and floor amendment #4653

**H2171: lifespan respite care; program termination** – 3/16 referred to Senate Health and Human Services Committee

**H2545: direct care personnel; duties** – 3/19 from Senate Health & Human Services with amendment #4944

**S1282: teledentistry; dental hygienists; dental assistants** – 3/19 from House Rules okay

**S1136: nursing facility assessment; continuation** – 3/17 passed House 46-13; ready for Governor

**SCM1008: disability rating process; veterans** – 3/19 passed House 55-0, to secretary of state

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

### Hearings today

**H2021: adult protective services; information online** – Calendar 3/23 Senate Committee of the Whole

**H2545: direct care personnel; duties** – 3/23 Senate Rules at 1:00 p.m., Senate Caucus Rm.

**S1404: health care directives; conflicts** - 3/23 House Rules at 12:00 p.m., House Rm. 4

NOTE: 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. BE SURE to click on the bill number for more information on that bill. You can watch live proceedings through the Arizona State Legislature's website; go to [Arizona Capitol Television](#) for more information.

Some of this session's bills may be of interest to older Arizonans and will continue to 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](#)**

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 Info](#) page.

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**Fiscal News**

From the **Joint Legislative Budget Committee**  
**Tracking Arizona's Recovery [here](#)**

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**Schedules**

Arizona State Legislature ALIS Today calendar linked [here](#)  
Senate Weekly Schedule linked [here](#)  
House Weekly Schedule linked [here](#)

**Deadlines**

Friday marked the last day for House consideration of Senate bills and Senate consideration of House bills.

**Senate [2015 Session Timeline](#)**

**House [Important Deadlines](#)**

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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.)

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**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**.

Not sure about your congressional or legislative district? **Maps** can be found on the Arizona State Legislature website linked [here](#).

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**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](#).

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**FEDERAL OVERVIEW:**

**Updates on Legislation**

**H.R.988**

**Elder Justice Reauthorization Act**

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

Reauthorizes the Elder Justice Act of 2009 and funding for its programs through FY2019.

Amends the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to reauthorize through FY2019: (1) the National Training Institute for Federal and State Surveyors, and (2) grants by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to state agencies that perform surveys of skilled nursing facilities or nursing facilities.

**Latest action: 3/16/15** referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.

Text [here](#)

Link to CRS Report dated September 3, 2014 [here](#)

**H.R.1055**

**To improve access to oral health care for vulnerable and underserved populations**

Text [here](#)

**Latest action: 3/16/15** , the bill was referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.

Related Bill: [S.570](#)

**ALSO:**

**S.Res.74**

**A resolution declaring that achieving the primary goal of the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease and of the Department of Health and Human Services to prevent and effectively treat Alzheimer's disease by 2025 is an urgent national priority.**

Introduced on 2/12/15 by Senator Susan M. Collins (ME) with seven cosponsors Expresses the Senate's commitment to strengthening the quality of care and expanding support for individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias and family caregivers.

Declares that: (1) achieving the primary goal of the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease to prevent and effectively treat Alzheimer's by 2025 is an urgent national priority, and (2) bold action and considerable increases in funding are necessary to meet that goal.

Encourages: (1) greater collaboration between governments to advance a global Alzheimer's and dementia research plan; (2) innovative public-private partnerships, financing tools, incentives, and other mechanisms to accelerate the pursuit of disease-modifying therapies.

Calls for: (1) doubling the funding for Alzheimer's research in FY2016; and (2) developing a plan for FY2017-FY2020 to meet the target of the Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Research, Care, and Services for the United States to spend \$2 billion each year on Alzheimer's research.

On 2/12/15, referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

**S.704**

**Community Based Independence for Seniors Act**

Introduced on 3/11/15 by Senator Chuck Grassley (IA)

To establish a Community-Based Institutional Special Needs Plan demonstration program to target home and community-based care to eligible Medicare beneficiaries.

On 3/11/15, read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

**H.R.793**

**Ensuring Seniors Access to Local Pharmacies Act of 2015**

Introduced on 2/5/2015 by Representative H. Morgan Griffith (VA-9)

Amends part D (Voluntary Prescription Drug Benefit Program) of title XIII (Medicare) of the Social Security act to direct any prescription drug plan that has in its network one or more pharmacies located in health professional shortage area, in a medically underserved area, or among a medically underserved population, and that provides a reduction in coinsurance or copayments for covered part D drugs, to extend to any pharmacy located in that area, or among that population, the option to be an in-network pharmacy under terms and conditions comparable to those the plan has agreed upon with other in-network pharmacies located in the area or among that population.

On 2/6/2015, referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

**H.R.975**

**Health Freedom for Seniors Act**

Introduced on 2/13/15 by Representative Bill Huizenga (MI-2)

Amends the Internal Revenue Code to allow tax-free transfers of required distributions after age 70 ½ from an individual retirement account (IRA) and other tax-exempt retirement accounts to a health savings account. Exempts such transfers from the excise tax on excess contributions to tax-favored accounts and annuities.

On 2/13/15, referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

**H.R.1017**

**Veterans Information Security Improvement Act**

Introduced on 2/20/15 by Representative Jackie Walorski (IN-2)

To improve the information security of the Department of Veterans Affairs by directing the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out certain actions to improve the transparency and the governance of the information security program of the Department, and for other purposes.

On 3/13/15, referred to the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

**H.R.1021**

**Protecting the Integrity of Medicare Act of 2015**

Introduced on 2/24/15 by Representative Kevin Brady (TX-8)

Text [here](#)

On 3/18/15 Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 29.

**H.R.1129**

**Veterans' Whistleblower and Patient Protection Act of 2015**

Introduced on 2/26/15 by Representative Ann Kirkpatrick (AZ-1)

To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish within the Department of Veterans Affairs an Office of Whistleblower and Patient Protection.

Text [here](#)

On 3/13/15, referred to the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

**H.R.1190**

**Protecting Seniors' Access to Medicare Act of 2015**

Introduced on 3/2/15 by Representative David P. Roe (TN-1)

Repeals sections of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (and restores provisions of law amended by those sections) related to the establishment of an Independent Payment Advisory Board to develop proposals to reduce the per capita

rate of growth in spending under title XVIII (Medicare) of the Social Security Act. On 3/2/15, referred to the House Rules.

**H.R.1391**

**Social Security 2100 Act**

Introduced on 3/17/15 by Representative John B. Larson (CT-1)  
To protect our Social Security system and improve benefits for current and future generations.

**Latest action:** referred to the House Committee on Education and Workforce.

**H.R.1397**

**Seniors' Tax Simplification Act of 2015**

Introduced on 3/17/15 by Representative John Fleming (LA-4)  
To allow seniors to file their Federal income tax on a new Form 1040SR.  
Text [here](#)

On 3/17/15, referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

**H.R.1395**

**Let Seniors Work Act of 2015**

Introduced on 3/17/15 by Representative Ron DeSantis (FL-6)  
To eliminate the payroll tax for individuals who have attained retirement age, to amend title II of the Social Security Act to remove the limitations upon the amount of outside income which an individual may earn while receiving benefits under such title, and for other purposes.

Text [here](#)

On 3/17/15, referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

**H.R.1468**

**To galvanize United States Government programs in support of brain health for global victims of autism, hydrocephalus and Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia, and for other purposes.**

Introduced on 3/19/15 by Representative Christopher H. Smith (NJ-4)  
Text pending.

**Latest action:** referred to the House Energy and Commerce

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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](#).

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**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

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**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>.

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**NEWS & RESOURCES**

**White House Conference on Aging Regional Forum** information [here](#). **Watch** for

regional listening sessions offered in Tucson and Flagstaff on March 31<sup>st</sup> and others following the Regional Forum in other communities around the state.

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From **National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities/NASUAD**  
*Friday Updates, March 20, 2015*

### **Congressional Leadership Releases FY2016 Budget Blueprints**

This week, Leadership in both the House and the Senate released their respective budget outlines for FY2016. The budget blueprint released by House Leadership on Tuesday largely mirrors proposals from the past several years and includes a number of significant changes to programs, including Medicaid and Medicare. Proposed changes include:

- Combining CHIP and Medicaid into a single program and modifying Medicaid from an entitlement to a block grant that increases state flexibility while decreasing Federal expenditures on the program;
- Establishing vouchers in Medicaid for private insurance;
- Completely repealing the ACA; and
- Reducing domestic discretionary spending (the line-item that includes Older Americans Act funding) below the levels currently authorized.

On Thursday, the House Budget Committee passed the proposal, sending it to the full chamber for review. The budget passed on a party-line vote, with all Republicans voting in favor and all Democrats voting in opposition.

The Senate proposal also projects significant savings, largely from reductions to health programs. The Senate proposal contains language to repeal the ACA as well as create a new program for certain children and adults based on the CHIP program. The proposed budget outlines the financial priorities of Congressional leadership, but actual program funding will ultimately be determined through the Appropriations process.

[Click here](#) to view the House budget.

[Click here](#) to access the Senate proposal.

### **Consumer Advisory Issued on Pension Advances**

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) has issued a Consumer Advisory on three pension advance traps to which retirees may be susceptible. Cash advances on pensions appear to be "quick fixes" to financially-strapped retirees; however, they can quickly drain retirement income when it's time to pay back the advance plus interest and fees. The Advisory blog also offers a pdf printout to share with friends, family, and clients.

[Click here](#) to access the full blog.

*Friday, March 13, 2015*

### **Research Report on Education& Training for Older Workers**

Earlier this month, AARP Public Policy Institute published a report, *Improving Education and Training for Older Workers*, as part of the [Future of Work@50+ Initiative](#). The report explores issues relating to skills training and education for older workers, including the challenges of deciding whether to enroll in education and training programs, and, if so, how to choose a program and pay for it. The report finds that many older unemployed workers lack the skills that are currently in demand by employers.

[Click here](#) to view the full report.

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From the **Administration for Community Living/ACL**

**May is Older Americans Month** – The 2015 theme is *Get Into the Act*  
Information and resources [here](#)

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From the **National Alzheimer's Project Act**

Updated information can be found at:

<http://aspe.hhs.gov/daltcp/napa/>

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

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**In case you missed it last time**

From **Kaiser Health News**

[Awake, And Safe, All Night Despite Dementia](#)

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

From the **National Council on Aging**

Highlights from the **Fall prevention Awareness Day 2014** [here](#)

**2015-2016 Priorities** for Congress [here](#)

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From **AARP**

**Livable Communities** [Interview](#)

5 Questions for Katherine Freund an advocate explains how the transportation needs of older adults can be met if safe drivers of all ages would share a ride.

ALSO: Congressional Family Caregiving Caucus launched - [here](#)

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**INFORMATION & RESOURCES**

**WHAT: Disability Benefits 101 Train-The-Trainer**

**WHEN: March 25, 2015 in Phoenix**

To register and for more information, [click here](#)

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**WHAT: The University of Arizona College of Medicine Phoenix Mini Medical School 2.0**

**WHEN: April 1, May 6**

More information found [here](#)

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**WHAT: Hospice of the Pines, Everything You Should Know About Diabetes and Hydration**

**WHEN: April 1, 2015, Christian Care Assisted Living and Independent Living, 859 South 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Cottonwood AZ 86326**

RSVP to 928-899-9489

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**Arizona's 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide Symposium in Support of Service Members, Veterans & Their Families**

**WHEN: April 22 – 23, 2015, Desert Willow Conference Center, Phoenix AZ**

**More information** [here](#)

[Registration Packet](#)

[Agenda](#)

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**Arizona Transit Association**

**2015 AZTA/ADOT conference April 12 – 15, 2015**

More information [here](#)

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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>.

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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](mailto: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.

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**Have a good week!**

**~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](mailto:gaca@az.gov) and ask to be unsubscribed or subscribed to the **Legislative Update**.

Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

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