



GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Welcome to the Legislative Update for March 18, 2016

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.

Note: to get the most from this report, be sure to open the [links](#) throughout this issue for the latest news and information. Thank you for your interest!

52nd Legislature, 2nd Regular Session

Today marked the last day to hear Senate bills in the House Committee and House bills in the Senate committees. Both the House and Senate are adjourned until Monday, March 21 at 1:30 p.m.

66 bills have passed and 46 have been signed by the Governor.

Those bills signed by the Governor and tracked by the Council include the following.

SB1045: Pioneer's Home; Miners Hospital; continuation – continues the Arizona Pioneers' Home/Disabled Miners' Hospital for eight years.

SB1108: application for public assistance; requirements – states that an application for any form of assistance requires a statement subscribed by the applicant certifying that the contents of the application are true, and permits applicants to sign electronically.

Of those bills passed and awaiting signature, the following have been tracked by the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging.

HB2461: lifespan respite care; program termination – continues the Lifespan Respite Care Program through July 1, 2025. Recent action: passed the Senate 28-1; ready for the Governor.

HB2152: consumer lenders; referral fees; insurance – eliminates the prohibition on referrals and the monetary cap on prizes and good for consumer lenders. Additionally, allows a consumer lender to offer and sell Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance and Disability Income Protection Insurance. Recent action: passed Senate 16-14; ready for Governor.

Please note the Council tracks legislation that has the potential to impact older Arizonans. All of the bills tracked this session can be found on the FULL List web report posted [HERE](#). (Be sure to view the recent action for these bills and click on the bill numbers for more information including bill versions, adopted amendments, proposed amendments, votes, fact sheets and more.)

Highlights from the tracking list

SB1196: silver alert; Alzheimer’s disease – Recent action: amended in the House Committee of the Whole on 3/16/2016. Amendment is linked [HERE](#) and changes the expansion of the Silver Alert system to Alzheimer’s or dementia.

SB1283: controlled substances prescription monitoring program – requires medical practitioners to obtain a patient utilization report from the controlled substances prescription monitoring program’s central database tracking system before prescribing certain controlled substances and outlines exemptions to this requirement. Recent action: 3/16 from House Health Committee with do pass

SB1316: flexible credit loans; regulation - establishes flexible credit loans, regulated by the Arizona Department of Financial Institutions (DFI) and outlines the requirements for licensure, loan plans, interest rates and finance charges. Recent action: 3/15 House Committee of the Whole approved with amendments. Adopted amendment is posted [HERE](#).

SB1375: telephone solicitations - expands the prohibition on telephone solicitation to include all telephone numbers. Recent action: 3/14 from House Rules Committee okay; To House consent calendar.

SB1441: long-term insurance; rates; premium – makes various changes to Arizona’s long-term care insurance laws relating to premium increases by insurers. Recent action: 3/16 from House Insurance Committee with amendment. House summary [HERE](#).

SB1490: transportation funding; task force – an emergency measure that establishes the Surface Transportation Task Force (Task Force) and specifies duties and requirements of the Task Force. Recent action: 3/17 from House Rules okay.

SB1507: ALTCS; dental services - requires dental services to be provided by contractors for members of the Arizona Long Term Care System (ALTCS) in an annual amount not to exceed

\$1,000 per member. Makes technical changes. Recent action: 3/16 from House Health Committee with do pass.

HB2452: cash assistance; eligibility; children – removes the kid cap related to Cash Assistance for certain dependent children. (grandparents raising grandkids) Recent action: 3/16 from Senate Appropriations Committee with amendment.

HB2667: dental care; treatment; volunteer care – expands immunity from liability in a medical malpractice action to dental professionals providing services in connection with a nonprofit clinic. Recent action: 3/17 from Senate Health and Human Services Committee do pass.

DON'T FORGET!

You can watch Live Proceedings at:

http://azleg.granicus.com/Mediaplayer.php?publish_id=5

If you wish to sign in from home and register a position on any bill shown on an Agenda (whether or not you wish to speak), you must first sign in at any of the kiosks located outside the committee rooms located on the first floor of either the House or the Senate(1700 W. Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85007) the first time you use the Request to Speak.

Arizona State Legislature ALIS Today calendar [HERE](#)

Find House agendas [HERE](#)

Find Senate agendas [HERE](#)

Schedules

[House Weekly Schedule](#)

Senate 2016 Committee Schedule List [HERE](#)

Deadlines

Today, March 18 marks the last day to hear Senate bills in the House Committee and House bills in the Senate committees.

Senate [2016 Session Timeline](#)

[House Important Deadlines](#)

Members of the House of Representatives and Senate are listed on the Arizona State Legislature website at the following links if you wish to contact them by phone or email.

Members of the [House](#)

Members of the [Senate](#)

[Standing Committees](#) - this link provides you with a list of the committee members and information on any posted meeting agendas or minutes for that committee.

Summary of Action

As of **day 68, 1,219 bills posted; 66 passed and 46 signed; 108 memorials or resolutions have been posted; six (6) have passed.** Note: some of these bills may be of interest to older Arizonans and will be tracked by the Council on Aging and appear on the *Legislative Update* web report. 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.

Complete List of bills can be found [HERE](#).

Note: the web report provides you with the current status and upcoming hearing information on 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 is being condensed to reflect those aging-related bills still moving through the process. Information about bill status, hearings, etc. is a purchased service provided by *Arizona Capitol Times*. If you know of someone who would appreciate receiving this information, encourage them to subscribe to the *Legislative Update* by sending a request to gaca@az.gov.

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 602-542-4331 in Phoenix; 520-628-6580 in Tucson and in-state toll-free at 1-800-253-0883 (outside Maricopa County only) or
- **Legislators** from your area. You can locate your legislator by going to the **Arizona**

State Legislature website and looking for: [How Do I Find or Contact my Legislators?](#)

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

Other resources on the www.azleg.gov website

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

Find and review bill information [HERE](#).

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

Research the State Constitution [HERE](#).

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

FEDERAL OVERVIEW

Updates

S.524

Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016

Introduced in Senate 2/12/2015 by Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (RI)

To authorize the Attorney General to award grants to address the national epidemics of prescription opioid abuse and heroin use.

Text (3/10) [Here](#)

On 3/14/2016 Received in the House. Held at the desk: floor consideration.

S.1597

Patient-Focused Impact Assessment Act of 2015

Introduced on 6/17/2015 by Senator Roger F. Wicker (MS)

To enhance patient engagement in the medical product development process and for other purposes.

On 3/9/2016 Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.

Other legislation

H.R.4732

Advancing Medical Resident Training in Community Hospitals Act of 2016

Introduced on 3/14/2016 by Representative Reid J. Ribble (WI-8)

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish rules for payment for graduate medical education (GME) costs for hospitals that establish a new medical residency training program after hosting resident rotators for short durations.

On 3/14/2016, referred to the House Energy and Commerce.

H.R.4708

Credit for Caring Act of 2016

Introduced on 3/3/2016 by Representative Tom Reed (NY-23)

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a nonrefundable credit for working family caregivers.

On 3/3/2016 Referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

S.1993

21st Century Conservation Service Corps Act of 2015

Introduced on 8/5/2015 by Senator John McCain (AZ)

To establish the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps to place youth and veterans in the United States in national service positions to protect, restore, and enhance the great outdoors of the United States, and for other purposes.

On 3/17/2016 Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks. Hearing held.

S.2256

Co-Prescribing Saves Lives Act of 2015

Introduced on 11/5/2015 by Senator Tim Kaine (VA)

To establish programs for health care provider training in Federal health care and medical facilities, to establish Federal co-prescribing guidelines, to establish a grant program with respect to naloxone, and for other purposes.

On 3/16/2016 Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.

S.2633

Improving Veterans Access to Care in the Community Act

Introduced on 3/3/2016 by Senator Jon Tester (MT)

To improve the ability of the Secretary of Veteran Affairs to provide health care to veterans through non-Department health care providers, and for other purposes.

On 3/15/2016 Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearing held.

S.2646

Veterans Choice Improvement Act of 2016

Introduced on 3/7/2016 by Senator Richard Burr

To amend title 38, United States Code to establish the Veterans Choice Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs to improve health care provided to veterans by the Department, and for other purposes.

On 3/15/2016 Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Hearings held.

S.2721

A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to credit individuals serving as caregivers of dependent relatives with deemed wages for up to five years of service.

Introduced on 3/17/2016 by Senator Christopher S. Murphy (CT)

On 3/17/2016, read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

S.2736

A bill to improve access to durable medical equipment for Medicare beneficiaries under

the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

Introduced on 3/17/2016 by Senator John Thune (SD)

On 3/17/2016 read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

Share your opinions with members of Congress!

If you are interested in sharing your thoughts or concerns, find out how to contact your Representative 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 **Kaiser Health News**

Report Details Senior Health Care That Misses The Mark [HERE](#).

Long Term Care Insurance: Less Bang, More Buck [HERE](#).

Coinsurance Trend Means Seniors Likely To Face Higher Out-Of-Pocket Drug Costs, Report Says is linked [HERE](#).

Managing Depression A Challenge In Primary Care Settings, Study Finds [HERE](#).

KHN's Aging coverage at: <http://khn.org/topics/aging/>.

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

Friday Updates, March 18, 2016

Community First Choice: Final Report to Congress

On March 16, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the Community First Choice (CFC) Final Report to Congress. This benefit allows states the option of adding home and community-based attendant services and supports to their State plans. The findings from four states that have implemented the Community First Choice benefit -- California, Montana, Maryland, and Oregon-- are described in the report. The CFC report is required by the Affordable Care Act, including the assessment of "the effectiveness of services provided under CFC in allowing individuals to live independently, to the maximum extent possible; the impact of such services on enrollees' physical and emotional health; and the comparative costs of CFC services and those provided under institutional care." These are the findings of the CFC benefit as of March 15, 2015.

[Click here](#) to view the publication. (Link to report is provided [HERE](#).)

Social Security's 2016 Red Book

The Social Security Administration (SSA) released the Social Security 2016 Red Book. The Red Book is a free guide to employment supports for people who receive Social Security disability benefits, Supplemental Security Income, or both. Included in the book are explanations of work incentives, how working can affect benefits, where to find local services, and more. Educators, advocates, rehabilitation professionals, and counselors who serve people with disabilities are some of the populations that rely on this important resource to assist individuals with disabilities that wish to work. Free printed copies of the publication are available by mail. Please contact the SSA by [email](#), phone (410) 965-2039, or fax (410) 965-2037 for more information.

[Click here](#) to view the publication.

Falls Prevention Awareness Day

The National Council on Aging (NCOA) is hosting the 9th annual Falls Prevention Awareness Day. This year's theme is "Ready, Steady, Balance: Prevent Falls in 2016." NCOA has many resources to help states and organizations celebrate this observance. Some of the resources include: Infographics, a video on falls prevention, a webinar, a social media toolkit, a PowerPoint presentation toolkit, several handouts, and many examples of falls prevention awareness activities. Falls Prevention Awareness Day will be observed on **September 22, 2016** - the first day of fall.

[Click here](#) to view details.

From the **National Council on Aging/NCOA**

Spanish Falls Prevention Video available [HERE](#).

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

Alzheimer's website: <http://www.alzheimers.gov/>

National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease updated information can be found at:
<http://aspe.hhs.gov/daltcp/napa/>.

In case you missed it last time...

From **Kaiser Health News**

UCLA Freshmen Learn About Growing Old - [HERE](#)

Dueling Star Ratings May Confuse Some Home Health Patients [HERE](#)

The Agonizing Limbo of Abandoned Nursing Home Residents - [HERE](#)

R2D2's Next Assignment: Hospital Orderly [HERE](#)

From **Governing Magazine**

[Alzheimer's Care Struggles to Meet Demands](#)

Governor Ducey signed a **proclamation honoring Arizona women** during **Women's History Month**. Proclamation shown [HERE](#).

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

Arizona Geriatrics Society 9th Annual Spring Geriatric Mental Health and Aging Conference

Friday, April 15, 2016, Plaza Arboleda Conference Center, 2502 North Dodge Boulevard, Tucson AZ

More information is provided [HERE](#).

Webinar: What Foundations Can Do During An Election Season provided by Philanthropy Southwest and Alliance for Justice

Thursday, April 7, 2016 – 1:00 p.m.

More information is posted [HERE](#).

Early Registration is Ending!

Arizona Association of Area Agencies on Aging/AZ4A 2016 Aging Summit

May 19-20, 2016, High Country Conference Center, 201 West Butler Avenue, Flagstaff AZ

More information and register online [HERE](#)

If 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 events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service advocates and refrain from including fundraising or marketing materials.

Enjoy your 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

* PH: (602) 542-4710 * Fax: (602) 542-4774 * E: gaca@az.gov