

Welcome to the Legislative Update for February 12, 2009

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. It is our intent to offer the Legislative Update weekly during the 2009 session of the Arizona State Legislature. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and action taking place at the Legislature. The information provided is intended to help you form your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts to help ensure your perspective and voice are heard. *Please note the Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* We thank you for your interest!

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

As the full impact of Fiscal Year 2009 budget cuts to state agencies and services is still being fully realized or determined, legislative discussions are shifting to Fiscal Year 2010. Members of both parties in the House announced budget hearings. To learn more about the location of these hearings, visit the press release link at the Arizona State Legislature website: <http://www.azleg.gov/PressReleases.asp>

To review the Joint Legislative Budget Committee's FY 2009 Budget Revisions Plan as Enacted, go to: <http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/FY09enactedbudget.pdf>.

The JLBC's listing of potential federal assistance (as of 2/10/09) from the federal stimulus package is provided at:

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

February 2nd marked the last day for bill introduction in the Senate without special permission and February 9th was the last day by rule for bill introduction in the House without special permission. At the end of 32 days of the 2009 Arizona Legislative Regular Session, 1,098 bills have been posted along with 93 memorials and resolutions. Several of these will 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 web page 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.

STATE LEGISLATION:

Visit the link below to view the Council's web page and the list of bills the Council is tracking.

FULL LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=364&listid=13720&print=true>

Once all bills have been filed and reviewed, we will establish the Council's SHORT list – those bills of particular focus as they affect health and safety of older adults.

Note: The website FULL LIST 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. We are adding new bills to the website on a weekly basis, but the updated status of any particular bill is available throughout the week using the link. *Information about bill status, hearing, etc. is a purchased service provided by the Arizona Capitol Times.*

Contact Your Policymakers: If you have a particular perspective about anything in a piece of legislation that is being considered, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

- Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-4331 or toll-free at 800-253-0883.

- Or you may contact the legislator from your area. If you do not know how to reach your local legislator, start at the home page on the Legislature's website and follow the instructions provided at both the Senate and House Member links.

Arizona State Legislature website: <http://www.azleg.gov/>

FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

Negotiations on the federal stimulus legislation moved quickly this week. Yesterday, the Senate indicated an agreement on a \$789 billion stimulus package; final votes in the House and Senate are anticipated soon. The package includes an array of measures including tax cuts, one-time payments to people receiving Social Security benefits, funding of transportation and other projects. You can find HR1: The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 at the top of the home page at this link: <http://thomas.loc.gov/>. (Be sure to see the anticipated assistance to Arizona at the JLBC link listed under the General Overview.)

Contact Your Congressional Member: If you are interested in Congressional bills or wish to share your thoughts or concerns with your federal representatives, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House or <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the Senate.

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

WHAT: Arizona Caregiver Coalition Spring 2009 Meeting

WHEN: Thursday, March 19, 2009, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m., Flinn Foundation, 1802 N. Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ

**For more information visit the Arizona Caregiver Coalition website:
www.azcaregiver.org**

**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 (as shown above) to:
gaca@az.gov.**

**Be sure to visit the Governor's Office on Aging website
at: www.azgovernor.gov/aging.**

We apologize for the abbreviated version of the newsletter this week and look forward to providing more indepth information soon! Thank you and have a great weekend!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging