

Welcome to the Legislative Update for March 6, 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:

On Wednesday of this week, Governor Brewer addressed a joint session of the 49th Arizona State Legislature and outlined a 5-point long-term recovery plan in response to the states fiscal situation. The Governor called on members of the House and Senate, Republicans and Democrats, to set aside their differences and "...place workers, employers, families, retirees, students, and young children ahead of politics."

To view a copy of the Governor's remarks to the joint session, go to:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/documents/2009_BuildingABetterAZ.pdf

An outline of the Governor's 5-point plan is provided at:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/documents/2009_BuildingABetterAZ-Outline.pdf

The Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC) state debt report can be found at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/statedebt0309.pdf>

The updated JLBC projection of federal stimulus funding to Arizona is located at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/arrasummary030409.pdf>

Next Friday, March 13th marks the last day by leadership order for Senate committees to hear Senate bills. At the end of day 54 of the 2009 Arizona Legislative Session, 1098 bills are posted along with 93 memorials and resolutions. 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>

Highlights of legislative actions taken on bills the Council is tracking include:

H2283: Certified Nursing Assistants; Pilot Program House Committee of the Whole approved with amendment #4036 on 3/5/09.

HB 2071: Photo radar; defensive driving school proposed strike everything amendment to this bill creates the Small Installment Loan Act held in House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure 3/5/09.

Up-coming hearings for bills on the Councils FULL List include:

H2513: Reverse Mortgages Hearing: House Rules 3/9/09 1:00 p.m., House Rm. 4.

Be sure to check the Arizona State Legislature website for agendas and time changes and updates for Senate, House and Joint Legislative Budget committee agendas at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/CommitteeAgendas.asp?Body=H&ShowAll=OFF>

Once we have finished reviewing all the bills that are posted, we will establish the Councils 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 need help in reaching your local legislator, start at the homepage 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:

H.R.824

Family and Medical Leave Enhancement Act of 2009

H.R.824 was introduced on February 3, 2009, by Representative Carolyn B. Maloney [NY-14]. There are ten (10) co-sponsors on this bill - Representative Tammy Baldwin [WI-2], Representative Timothy H. Bishop [NY-1], Representative Corrine Brown [FL-3], Representative Keith Ellison [MN-5], Representative Bob Filner [CA-51], Representative Barney Frank [MA-4], Representative James P. McGovern [MA-3], Representative George Miller [CA-7], Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton [DC], Representative Lynn Woolsey [CA-6].

The purpose of H.R. 824 or Family and Medical Leave Enhancement Act of 2009 is to amend the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 and title 5, United States Code, in order to allow employees to take, as additional leave, parental involvement leave to participate in or attend their children's and grandchildren's educational and extracurricular activities, and to clarify that leave may be taken for routine family medical needs and to assist elderly relatives and for other purposes.

The bill outlines that an eligible employee shall be entitled to leave to participate in or attend an activity that is sponsored by a school or community organization and relates to a program of the school or organization that is attended by a son or daughter or a grandchild of the employee or meet routine family medical care needs, including for medical and dental appointments of the employee or a son, daughter, spouse, or grandchild of the employee, or to attend to the care needs of elderly individuals who are related to the eligible employee, including visits to nursing homes and group homes. The bill limits the time taken to an eligible employee is entitled to not to exceed 4 hours of leave under this paragraph during any 30-day period and is not to exceed 24 hours of leave under during any 12-month period.

The last major legislative action to take place on H.R.824 was on February 3, 2009, when it was referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor, the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, and House Administration.

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:

Senior Action Day April 1st

As you may recall, in years past the Council on Aging has held events throughout the state or one large event on the Capitol lawn with vendors, food, and an array of activities. **Due to the current economic situation and to be as time and cost efficient as possible, the Council on Aging has decided to restructure and hold one modified event at the Executive Tower building in Phoenix. YOU CAN STILL MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD! We're encouraging older Arizonans and aging advocates to provide your input about important issues via mail, email or phone to share with legislators on that day.**

Mail your input to us at:

The Governors Advisory Council on Aging

1700 W. Washington Street, Suite 240

Phoenix, AZ 85007

OR - Email us at: gaca@az.gov

OR - Call us at 602-542-4710.

Visit our link for more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/2009SeniorActionDayFlier.pdf>

What: With Art in Mind: an enriching experience for people with dementia and their care partners, Banner Alzheimer's Institute

When: March 20, 2009, 12:30 4:00 p.m., Phoenix Art Museum.

For more information:

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

What: Why Should I Care About Elder Abuse? Arts Contest sponsored by the Attorney General's Office in partnership with Free Arts of Arizona

For more information:

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

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

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

What: A. T. Still University's Lecture on Aging featuring Dorothy Baker, Ph.D., R. N.

From the halls of ivy to the kitchen table: Moving evidence-based fall prevention into practice (Seating is limited)

When: April 3, 2009, 1:00 p.m. Saguaro A & B Classrooms (live), 5850 E. Still Circle, Mesa, Arizona 85206

For more information: call 660-626-2432

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/LectureAgingFlyer09.pdf>

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.

Visit the Governor's Office on Aging website at: www.azgovernor.gov/aging .

Thank you and have a great week!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging