

Welcome to the Legislative Update for March 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:

Governor Brewer visited various communities throughout the state this week as outreach to greater Arizona and to present her 5-Point Plan for Building a Better Arizona. Look for more information and updates under *Latest News* posted at the Governor's Website:

<http://www.governor.state.az.us/>

In an effort to prepare for appropriation of federal monies for childcare, graduate medical assistance and disproportionate share hospital funding as requested by the Governor's Office of Strategic Planning and Budget, a special joint House and Senate Appropriations committee meeting was scheduled today to review SB1184: 2008-2009; Appropriations; Budget Revisions and HB 2051: 2008-2009 Appropriations; Budget Revisions.

These bills have been added to the Council's **FULL LIST** and can be accessed at that link shown later in the newsletter.

View the Joint Legislative Budget Committee's Budget Revisions at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/FY2009Revisions-March.pdf>

To view the JLBC 3/10/09 appropriations hearing presentation, go to:

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

Tomorrow, March 13th marks the last day by leadership order for Senate committees to hear Senate bills. April 10th is the last day by leadership order for House committees to consider Senate bills and Senate committees to hear House bills. At the end of day 59 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:

H2513: Reverse Mortgages House consent calendar 3/12/09.

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 this session, 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:

Governors 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 homepage under *How do I find My Legislators* or follow the instructions provided at both the Senate and House Member links at the website.

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

FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

On Tuesday, the Senate voted to approve the fiscal year 2009 omnibus spending bill, H.R. 1105 that covers nine appropriations bills not enacted last year. Based on preliminary information from the American Public Human Services Association, the following are highlights for aging-related human service programs.

Health

A \$45 million increase to help seniors understand what Medicare benefits are available to them, a \$6 million increase from 2008.

\$75 million for a new initiative to provide start-up grants to states that are ready with plans to expand health care coverage to targeted groups.

Nutrition

The measure provides \$53.969 billion for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, including a \$3 billion reserve fund.

A \$1.2 billion increase from 2008 in the Women, Infants, and Children program to \$6.86 billion to support the expected increase of 400,000 participants from 2008.

\$230.8 million for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program and other nutrition programs.

Selected other programs

\$1.7 billion for the Social Services Block Grant to help states with child care, protective services, help for the disabled, adoption, counseling, transportation, foster care, and substance abuse.

\$700 million to the Community Services Block Grant, which supports safety net services at the community level for 16 million individuals, a \$46 million increase from 2008.

\$2.8 billion for state unemployment insurance operations, an increase of \$260 million above 2008.

\$1.5 billion to help train and place 360,000 dislocated workers who have lost their jobs during the economic crisis, a \$2 million increase from 2008.

The Department of Health and Human Services has launched a new Office of Recovery Act Coordination. To read more about the office and learn how to track the distribution of \$3 billion in recovery act funds go to:

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2009pres/03/20090311a.html>

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!**

Were 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 Generals 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: Project SEARCH Information Night with Speaker Erin Riehle re: best practice model employment program for young adults with developmental disabilities

When: Wednesday, March 18, 2009, 5:30 7:30 p.m. Northwest Center at Mansfield Park, 2160 N. 6th Avenue, Tucson

For more information visit: http://rs6.net/tn.jsp?et=1102502924884&e=001H2I6mRNLsEx1NkAwK2F9FYOwey4sqDqffixr8Z-tpqMiitrZaeOFFjdMgzkz0SDaM67QaDFNdZwZTRdT7yMpWQIokzaDC2wk_Mu6-IctyLsWK2WauOPxGO4fbZbgBrkmDfzWf4rK0_8H6RDwK2KDYW2mtkaQQnA9SAaY2el7EEUf-2IZXZ0bYh-80fH3-s_joGuFo6ZfUaVVtDC2qZUUQ== .

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

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

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