

Welcome to the Legislative Update for April 3, 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:

A bill a week seems to be the standard right now while the budget discussions continue to be first priority. SB1185: Internal Revenue Code; Conformity passed in the Senate on Thursday, was substituted for HB 2802 in the House and passed. By emergency clause, the bill as amended is intended to offset the potential loss of revenue (estimated at nearly \$73 million) resulting from conformity with new federal tax withholding policy.

The Joint Legislative Budget Committee released their Monthly Fiscal Highlights report on Tuesday which indicates revenue collections continue to be lower than projected and the state's loss of jobs in the last 12 months reached the largest decline since 1946. The report is linked here:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/mfh-mar-09.pdf>

The Governor is joining community leaders in an unprecedented gathering to discuss the Arizona budget crisis next Thursday, April 9th at the Tempe Center for the Arts. To read more about the special summit, go to:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/dms/upload/MA_040309_GPEC%20-%20Community%20Budget%20Discussion.pdf

Arguments at the legislature on how to close the FY 2010 projected \$3.4 billion deficit continue. The House Democrats released their 2010 budget plan on Tuesday. The information is posted at:

<http://www.strongerarizona.com/>

House Republicans responded to the House Democrats plan in a statement found at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/press/House/49leg/1R/033009%5FDEMS+BUDGET+NOT+BALANCEDT%2EDOC.htm>

You can check the press releases of both the Senate and House by visiting this link at the Arizona State Legislature website:

<http://www.azleg.gov/PressReleases.asp>

April 10th marks 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 82 of the 2009 Arizona Legislative Session, 1099 bills posted, two (2) passed, one (1) signed and 96 memorials and resolutions posted.

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:

HB 2399: Automated External Defibrillators House Committee of the Whole on 4/2/09

Scheduled Hearings on bills the Council is tracking include:

H2344: Vulnerable Adults: Financial Exploitation Hearing House Rules 4/6 at 1:00 pm, House Room 4

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

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

The website FULL List link 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. *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 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:

S.277
Serve America Act

S.277 was introduced on January 16, 2009 by Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA). There are 42 cosponsors on this bill.

The bill amends the National and Community Service Act of 1990 to expand and improve opportunities for service, and for other purposes.

S.277 creates two new service-learning programs. The bill establishes the Commission on Cross-Sector Solutions to America's Problems to study ways in which the federal government and businesses can more effectively collaborate with nonprofit and philanthropic organizations to address pressing national and local challenges.

The bill creates a Community Solutions Funds Pilot program awarding competitive matching grants to grantmaking institutions or partnerships between such institutions and state or local governmental entities which will use the grants to provide competitive matching subgrants to community organizations for use in replicating or expanding proven solutions to specifically identified community challenges. It also establishes an Innovation Fellowships Pilot program awarding competitive grants to individuals who are veterans, or have completed at least one period of national service, to establish innovative nonprofit organizations that address national and local challenges.

S.277 creates a ServeAmerica Corps program providing formula grants to states and awarding competitive grants to states and nonprofit organizations to fund national service in low-income communities, and additional incentives for national service participation by individuals age 50 and older and makes ServeAmerica Corps participants eligible for national service educational awards. It directs a partnership composed of the Corporation, the Director of the Bureau of the Census, and the Commissioner of Labor Statistics.

The bill establishes the ServeAmerica and Encore Fellowships program providing ServeAmerica Fellowships to IHE-nominated individuals and Encore Fellowships to individuals age 50 or older who agree to be placed with nonprofit organizations to carry out projects in specified areas of national need.

S.277 creates a Volunteer Generation Fund program and establishes a National Service Reserve Corps of individuals who have completed a term of national service to respond to national disasters and other emergencies.

On March 18, 2009, S.277 was sent to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

For more information on the bill please go to the Thomas website <http://www.thomas.gov/> and enter the bill number under *Search Bill Summary & Status*.

To read the National Association of State Units on Aging comparison of Silver Alert Programs by state, go to:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/newsletter/Silver%20Alert%20Follow%20Up.pdf>

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:

The **Governors Advisory Council on Aging** wishes to thank all those who participated in the Council-sponsored Senior Action Day event. We appreciate the input we received via email, phone call, mail in and in person. Please note your input will be reviewed by the Council on Aging and shared as part of our statutory role to advise the Governor, the Legislature and state departments on matters concerning older Arizonans.

Please remember you can share your input with your legislators *at any time*. If you need help in locating your senator or representative and getting contact information, go to:

To find My Legislators:

<http://www.azleg.gov/alisStaticPages/HowToContactMember.asp>

Senate Members: <http://www.azleg.gov/MemberRoster.asp?Body=S>

House Members: <http://www.azleg.gov/memberRoster.asp?Body=H>

What: Time Out Workshop; Practical Solutions for Real Life Solutions

When: May 20, 2009, 8:00 a.m. 4:30 p.m., Scottsdale Civic Center Library, 3839 North Drinkwater Blvd., Scottsdale, AZ 85251

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/TimeOutFlyerMay2009.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.

Thank you and have a great week!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging