

Welcome to the Legislative Update for April 9, 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:

No new updates to share. Things remain at a standstill. Bills are not moving as the budget continues to be the focal point.

Tomorrow, April 10th marks the last day by leadership order for House committees to consider Senate bills and Senate committees to hear House bills. April 17th is the last day by leadership order for consideration of bills in Conference Committee.

At the end of day 88 of the 2009 Arizona Legislative Session, the tally remains the same - 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 2344: Vulnerable Adults: Financial Exploitation – 4/7 from House Rules Committee

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:

H.R. 1192

Alzheimer's Family Assistance Act of 2009

H.R. 1192 was introduced on February 25, 2009 by Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-TX-30). Cosponsor: Representative John T. Salazar (D-CO-3).

The purpose of H.R. 1192 is to amend the Internal Revenue Code to allow a phased-in tax credit (\$2,000 in 2009 increasing by \$500 each year until allowing \$3,500 in 2012 and thereafter) for family caregivers of spouses and dependents who have long-term care needs, allow a tax deduction for long-term care insurance premiums, and apply certain consumer protection standards to long-term care insurance contracts.

On February 25, 2009, the bill was sent to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

Last week we reported on S.277 Serve America Act. We are pleased to report that the Serve America Act passed last Thursday evening, April 2nd. You can access the bill at the Library of Congress website, THOMAS: <http://www.thomas.gov/>

To read more information about the allocation of federal stimulus funds to the states for nutrition programs, visit:

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2009pres/03/20090318a.html>

To see a breakdown of funding by state, go to:

<http://www.hhs.gov/recovery/programs/aoa/arrafunding.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:

WHAT: The 2009 Arizona Alzheimer's Consortium Annual Conference

WHEN: May 29, 2009, 8 am – 5 pm, Renaissance Glendale Hotel & Spa, 9495 W. Coyotes Blvd., Glendale AZ

For more information and to register, go to:

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

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration as a resource or event listing, 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