

Welcome to the Legislative Update for April 23, 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:

The anticipated release of the 2010 budget plan by the Senate and House leadership is still pending as of this date but expected to occur early next week. To view the posted Senate Appropriations Committee agenda for 4/28/09, go to:

<http://www.azleg.gov/agendas/0428010987.pdf>

Last week, the Joint Legislative Budget Committee released an update on ARRA funding for Arizona; that report can be found at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/arrasummary041709.pdf>

To view Governor Brewer's statement on the conference call with Vice President Biden regarding stimulus funding for states, go to:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/dms/upload/NR_042109_VPJoeBiden.pdf

On Wednesday, the Senate passed bills S1322 and S1102 as emergency measures to ensure receipt of federal dollars available through the stimulus funding. S1322 provides a 13-week extension of unemployment benefits and S1102 provides a tech change in state law in order to qualify for and receive \$1.6 billion in federal stimulus dollars for AHCCCS. To access the bills, go to:

http://www.azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill_Number=SB1102

http://www.azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill_Number=SB1322

Tuesday, April 21st marked the 100th day of the session. April 25th the Saturday of the week of the 100th session - is the date required by rule for sine die adjournment unless leadership extends the deadline. Leadership can extend no more than 7 days; thereafter any extension requires a majority vote in each house. At the end of day 102 of the 2009 Arizona Legislative Session, the tally is - 1101 bills posted, two (2) passed, one (2) signed and 96 memorials and resolutions posted; one (1) passed.

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:

H2629: License Plate Obstruction; Wheelchair Holders 4/20/09 from House Rules Committee.

Scheduled Hearings on bills the Council is tracking include:

None of the bills have scheduled hearings at this time.

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. 1140

Home Energy Assistance Targeted for Seniors Act

H.R. 1140 was introduced on February 23, 2009 by Representative Anthony D. Weiner (D-NY-9).

The Act:

1. amends the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 to rename it the Low-Income and Senior Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981
2. redefines low-income households as households with incomes which do not exceed that of state median income, with at least 50% of the household income attributable to persons who are at least 65 years old.

On March 30, 2009, H.R. 1140 was referred to the Subcommittee on Healthy Families and Communities

To read more about H.R. 1140, go to the Thomas website:
<http://www.thomas.gov/> and enter the bill number at *Search Bill Summary & Status*.

The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services recently released guidelines for securing health information. To view the April 17th HHS press release, go to:

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2009pres/04/20090417a.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 Arizona Legislative Information System Workshop

WHEN: Thursday, April 30, 2009, 9am - 4pm, The Disability Empowerment Center (DEC), Nina Mason Pulliam Conference Center, 5025 E. Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ 85034

For more information and to register, go to:

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

WHAT: 26th Annual Shi' Woye' Elderfest 2009

WHEN: May 14, 2009, Chief Alchesay Activity Center, Whiteriver, Arizona

For more information and to register:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/8548143.JPG>

WHAT: The 6th Annual Conference for Long Term Care Professionals 2009-2010

WHEN: May 27, 2009, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, Pueblo Norte, 7090 East Mescal St., Scottsdale, AZ 85254

For more information and to register, go to:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/LTCConfFlyer2009-2010.pdf>

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>

WHAT: 2009 Break the Silence Event to End Elder Abuse

WHEN: June 15, 2009, 10 am - 12:00 noon, Carnegie Center, 1101 W. Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ 85007

For more information and to register:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/BTSFlyerV414.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.

Be sure to visit the Governors Office on Aging website at:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/aging/>

Thank you and have a great week!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging