

Welcome to the Legislative Update for May 1, 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:

2010 Budget plan?

According to the committee agenda of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, the group will meet on Tuesday, May 5th and consider bills for budget reconciliation. View the current committee agenda at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/agendas/0505010987.pdf>

To see the latest summary by the JLBC on **federal stimulus funding** for Arizona, visit:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/arrasummary042809.pdf>

Grim news about state revenues continues. The JLBC April report indicates the shortfall for the current fiscal year is larger than anticipated. Read the monthly fiscal report at:

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

Last Friday, **Governor Brewer signed Senate Bills S1322 and S1102**; legislation that extends benefits for unemployed workers and allows Arizona to collect \$1.6 billion in federal funds for the States Medicaid program. To access the bills, go to:

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

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

At the end of day 110 of the 2009 Arizona Legislative Session, the tally is: 1101 bills posted, four (4) passed, four (4) 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:

H2344: Vulnerable Adults; Financial Exploitation House Committee of the Whole, 4/30/09.

H2513: Reverse Mortgages House Committee of the Whole, 4/30/09.

H2616: Living Wills; Health Care Directives House Committee of the Whole approved as amended, 4/28/09. To access H2616 and the approved amendments, go to:

http://www.azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill_Number=HB2616

Scheduled Hearings on bills the Council is tracking include: None scheduled 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:

S. 697

Community Living Assistance Services and Supports Act or the CLASS Act'

Introduced by Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA) on 3/25/09, the bill will amend the Public Health Service Act to help individuals with functional impairments and their families pay for services and supports that they need to maximize their functionality and independence and have choices about community participation, education, and employment, and for other purposes.

The purposes of the Act:

(1) To provide individuals with functional limitations with tools that will allow them to maintain their personal and financial independence and live in the community through a new financing strategy for community living assistance services and supports.

(2) To establish an infrastructure that will help address America's community living assistance services and supports needs.

(3) To alleviate burdens on family caregivers

On March 25, 2009, the bill was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

To read the entire text of the legislation, go to the **Thomas** website: <http://www.thomas.gov/> and enter the bill number (S.697) at *Search Bill Summary & Status*.

This week, the **World Health Organization (WHO)** and the **U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS)** released a worldwide and nationwide public health emergency declaration, respectively in response to on-going reports of human infections with swine influenza A Swine Flu.

For more information about Swine Flu, go to: <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/>

To view the **Arizona Department of Health Services** on-going updates on the swine influenza, visit this website page: <http://www.azdhs.gov/flu/swine/index.htm>

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently announced pilot program sites to participate in the Care Transitions Project. The Project is intended to improve quality as patients move across care settings. To read more about the project, go to:

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/apps/media/press/release.asp?Counter=3439>

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:

May is Older Americans Month and we encourage you to visit the Administration on Aging website to learn more about this annual recognition of our nations seniors.

http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Observances/oam/archive/archive.aspx

To access resources and tools to help celebrate this important month, go to:

http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Observances/oam/oam.aspx

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 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>

WHAT: Aging Services of Arizona 26th Annual Conference & Exposition

WHEN: June 13, 2009, Radisson Resort & Conference Center Fort McDowell

For more information and to register:

<http://www.azaha.org/files/Conference09.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 Governor's Office on Aging website at: <http://www.azgovernor.gov/aging/>

Thank you and have a great week!
~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging