

Welcome to the Legislative Update for May 29, 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:

Legislation:

Today, as part of the 2nd Special Session: School Choice; Disabled & Foster Children, Governor Brewer signed H2001. To read the Governor's press release regarding the bill, go to:

http://www.governor.state.az.us/dms/upload/NR_052909_HouseBill2001.pdf

A link to the bill summary is provided:

http://www.azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill_Number=HB2001

General Revenues:

According to the **May 2009 JLBC Monthly Fiscal Highlights:** April collections were \$(505.9) million below the January revised budget forecast. You can view the entire report at:

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

2010 Budget:

This week, the House and Senate Democrats released a joint budget proposal which can be viewed at: <http://www.strongerarizona.com/>.

With July 1st rapidly approaching, more budget action at the legislature and the administrative level is anticipated next week.

Keep updated on legislative activities by checking the press releases of both the Senate and House at the Arizona State Legislature website:

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

At the end of day 138 of the Regular 2009 Arizona Legislative Session, 1,111 bills posted, six (6) passed, six (6) signed; 96 memorials and resolutions posted and one (1) passed. For the 2nd Special Session: three (3) bills posted, one (1) passed, one (1) signed and one (1) resolution 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:

S1049: *Fingerprint Clearance Cards*; Passed Senate as amended; ready for House 5/27/09.

On 5/26/09 all Senate Budget bills as reported last week including **S1027; S1028; S1029; S1031; S1035; S1036; S1145; S1187; S1188; and S1258** from Senate Appropriation as amended.

Scheduled Hearings on bills the Council is tracking include:

S1049: *Fingerprint Clearance Cards*; Hearing: House Health & Human Services; 6/2/09, 10:30 am House Rm. 4.

Reminder: Be sure to check the Arizona State Legislature website for updated Senate, House and Joint Legislative Budget committee 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.*

Reminder: You can contact your policymaker. If you have a particular perspective about budget bills or 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. 1131/H.R. 2560

Independence at Home Act of 2009

On May 21, 2009, Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Representative Edward J. Markey (D-MA) introduced the Independence at Home Act of 2009.

This bill would amend Title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide chronically ill Medicare patients access to coordinated, primary care medical services in lower cost and more comfortable treatment settings, such as their residences. Sen. Wyden and Rep. Markey are co-chairmen of the Bi-Partisan Congressional Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease.

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

Today, U. S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced the appointment of Cindy Mann to serve as Director of the Center for Medicaid and State Operations (CMSO), part of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

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: Arizona Senior Center Association Annual Conference

WHEN: July 18, 2009, Mesa Active Adult Center, 247 North Macdonald Street, Mesa, Arizona 85201

For more information: <http://www.arizonaseniors.net/>

Reminder:

The 2009 employer applications for the Mature Worker Friendly Employer Certification are being accepted until July 15th. The on-line application is posted on the Arizona Mature Worker Website,

<http://www.azmatureworkers.com/default.asp?PageID=10007896>.

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