

Welcome to the Legislative Update for June 4, 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:

On Monday, Governor Brewer released her FY 2010 budget proposal. The plan has been widely viewed as a better scenario for human services and vulnerable populations than legislative alternatives. The proposal addresses the increased caseloads state agencies have faced during this economic downturn. The 5-point Long Term Recovery Plan includes those ideas presented to the Legislature in March of this year.

Documents outlining details of the proposal can be found at:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/Budget2010.asp>

In response, the Senate and the House have been working to reach agreement on proposed budget bills. Both reconvened this afternoon. Senate budget bills include **S1027; S1028; S1029; S1031; S1035; S1036; S1145; S1187; S1188; and S1258.** *The House package includes: H2633, H2634, H2635, H2636, H2637, H2638, H2639, H2640, H2641, H2642.*

Note: The Councils **FULL LIST** includes all of the Senate and House budget bills and you can access information on the bills through the link provided in this newsletter. Live proceedings can be viewed through the Arizona State Legislature website at http://azleg.granicus.com/Mediaplayer.php?publish_id=5 or through Arizona Capitol Television available through Cox Cable Channel 123.

The JLBC summary of the House and Senate budget plan can be found at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/HouseSenate6-3.pdf>

At day 144 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. 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>

Scheduled Hearings on bills the Council is tracking include:

S1049: *Fingerprint Clearance Cards; Hearing: House Health & Human Services; 6/9/09, 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.906

Senior Investment Protection Act of 2009

S.906 was introduced on April 28, 2009, by Senator Herb Kohl (D-WI) with the one co-sponsor on this bill, Senator Claire McCaskill (D-MO).

The purpose of this bill is to protect older Americans from misleading and fraudulent marketing practices with the goal of increasing retirement security.

S.906 directs the Attorney General to establish a program of grants to states to:

- (1) Investigate and prosecute misleading and fraudulent marketing practices; or
- (2) Develop educational materials and training aimed at reducing misleading and fraudulent marketing of financial products toward seniors.

On April 28, 2009, the bill was referred to Senate committee; it was read twice then referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs announced plans to develop a nationwide program to help older Americans and disabled Veterans with disabilities remain independent in the community.

Read the press release at:

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2009pres/06/20090604a.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:

Area Agency on Aging, Region One (Maricopa County) can assist adults over 60 or an adult with disabilities in getting and/or installing a Converter Box. For more information, call the 24-hour Senior HELP LINE at 602-264-HELP (4357).

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