

Welcome to the Legislative Update for June 19, 2009

This e-mail is provided weekly as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging 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 :

With only a matter of days until the start of a new fiscal year and in response to the Legislative Leadership's decision *not* to send their budget bills forward for official action, the Governor filed a petition with the Arizona Supreme Court to compel the Legislature to transmit the budget package they passed. A copy of that filing can be found at the Governor's website under *Latest News*:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/dms/upload/NR_061609_BrewerVBurnsPetitionSpecialAction.pdf

Several state agencies who provide services for older Arizonans have posted 2010 budget information on their websites outlining potential impacts.

Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System/AHCCCS:

http://www.azahcccs.gov/shared/news.aspx#FY_2010_State_Budget_Reduction_Options

Department of Economic Security:

<https://egov.azdes.gov/cmsinternet/main.aspx?menu=12&id=3726>

Department of Health Services:

<http://www.azdhs.gov/pdf/FY%202010%20Executive%20Budget.pdf>

Legislation :

On Tuesday, the Governor signed **SB1155: Elections; Hospital Districts:** an act authorizing hospital district elections to decide whether to continue an existing secondary property tax to fund the operation and maintenance of hospitals or urgent care centers.

On Thursday, the Legislature passed **H2324 Health Insurance; Individuals; Coverage Exemptions**: a bill that allows health insurers to issue policies to uninsured individuals that are exempt of certain mandated benefits.

The pace has certainly accelerated; the Senate reviewed *more than 200 bills in the first four days of this week*. The following are *a few of the bills* from the Council's FULL List that have seen action this week or are scheduled to be heard next week.

H2283: *Certified Nursing Assistants; Pilot Program*; 6/19/09: the bill was approved in the Senate Committee of the Whole. To read the bill and amendments, go to:

http://www.azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill_Number=HB2283

H2344: *Vulnerable Adults; Financial Exploitation*; The bill was referred to the Senate Public Safety & Human Services Committee on 6/18/09. To read the entire bill and amendments, go to:

http://www.azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill_Number=HB2344

S1400: *Dental Assistants; Community Oral Health*; 6/19/09: this bill was approved in the Senate Committee of the Whole as amended. S1400 allows affiliated practice dental hygienists to perform dental hygiene procedures on adults. To read the entire bill and amendments, go to:

http://www.azleg.gov/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill_Number=SB1400

At day 159 of the Regular 2009 Arizona Legislative Session, 1,111 bills posted, eighteen (18) passed, seven (7) signed; 98 memorials and resolutions posted and two (2) 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:

S1098: *Direct Care Workers; Health Care Directives;* Hearing: Senate Healthcare & Medical Liability Reform, 6/24/09, 9:00 am, Senate Rm. 1.

H2344: *Vulnerable Adults; Financial Exploitation;* Hearing: Senate Judiciary, 6/22/09, 1:30 pm, Senate Rm. 1. Hearing: Senate Public Safety & Human Services, 6/24/09, 8:30 am, Senate Rm. 3.

H2399: *Automated External Defibrillators;* Hearing: Senate Healthcare & Medical Liability Reform, 6/24/09, 9:00 am, Senate Rm. 1.

H2622: *Dependent Children; Relatives; Disclosure;* Hearing: Senate Public Safety & Human Services, 6/24/09, 8:30 am, Senate Rm. 3.

Reminder: Be sure to check the Arizona State Legislature website for *updated, revised* 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 policymakers. If you have a particular perspective about budget proposals, 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.1257

Project 2020: Building on the Promise of Home-and-Community-Based Services Act of 2009

S.1257 was introduced on June 11, 2009 by Senator Maria Cantwell (WA) with one co-sponsor, Senator Debbie Stabenow (MI).

Project 2020: Building on the Promise of Home-and-Community-Based Services Act of 2009 amends the Social Security Act to build on the aging network to establish long-term services and supports through:

- single-entry point systems
- evidence-based disease prevention and health promotion programs
- enhanced nursing home diversion programs

On June 11, 2009, the bill was read twice then referred to the Committee on the Finance.

For more information specific to S.1257, go to the Thomas website <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and enter the bill number under *Search Bill Summary & Status*.

To access the **Project 2020 report** and a joint **legislative summary** by the **National Association of State Units on Aging (NASUA)** and the **National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a)**, go to:

<http://www.n4a.org/files/advocacy/campaigns/policy-priority-09.pdf#page=3>

As follow up to an earlier report, **The Elder Justice Act (S.795/H.R. 2006)** was the focus of a Capitol Hill briefing yesterday sponsored by Rep. King (R-NY). Aging advocates are encouraging the inclusion of the Act into health reform because older victims of abuse and exploitation often suffer declining health after the abuse.

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/>

Just in time for Father's Day!

Health e-Cards for Father's Day from AHRQ

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality encourages you to show your Dad how much you care. "Encourage your Dad to talk with his doctor about the preventive tests he needs to get and when he needs to get them. Send a health e-card to remind someone special in your life how important their health is to you. Visit <http://www.ahrq.gov/> and look for the Health e-Card image in the upper right corner to customize and send your Fathers Day Health e-Card. Your Dads health is important, so encourage him to take the time to get the tests he needs, so that you can celebrate many more Father's Days with him for years to come."

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