

Welcome to the Legislative Update for August 13, 2009

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and actions taking place at the Arizona State Legislature and to highlight Congressional bills or happenings affecting older Americans. This information is intended to help you shape your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts so that you can ensure your perspective and voice are heard. *The Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* Thank you for your interest!

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

2010 Budget:

On Wednesday, the Senate substituted House bills, H2006 for Senate 1020, H2008 for S1024, H2009 for S1023, H2010 for S1021, H2011 for S1027, H2012 for S1022, H2013 for H1026, and H2014 for S1028 then passed these bills. The budget package did not include the Governor's request for a special election related to a sales tax increase. H2015 and S1029 failed to pass the Senate. Today, the Senate voted to reconsider 8/12 failure to pass on bill (H2015); date of second vote to be determined by Senate President. Both the Senate and the House are adjourned until Monday, August 17th at 1:00 p.m.

Governor Brewer's statement about the Senate budget actions can be found at:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/dms/upload/NR_081209_Statement.pdf

More news regarding the recent Arizona Supreme Court ruling on the state budget dispute can also be found at the Governor's website under *Latest News*:

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

To review the budget bills passed by the Senate, go to the Council's Third Special Session list provided below.

Legislation:

To help track legislation during the Third Special Session, the Council created the 3rd Special Session List which is being updated according to legislative actions.

3rd Special Session List:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=471&listid=16365&print=true>

FYI

Once the special session has ended, the Legislative Update will be provided *monthly* with a federal focus until the next legislative session begins.

During the Third Special Session: You can still contact your policymakers. If you have a particular perspective about the budget proposed, 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. 3155

Caregiver Assistance and Resource Enhancement Act

The CARE Act was introduced on July 9, 2009 by Representative Michael H. Michaud (ME-2) with the following cosponsors: Representative Corrine Brown (FL-3), Representative Joe Donnelly (IN-2), Representative Ron Klein (FL-22), Representative Christopher H. Smith (NJ-4), Representative Frank R. Wolf (VA-10), Representative Ander Crenshaw (FL-4), Representative Deborah L. Halvorson (IL-11), Representative Ciro D. Rodriguez (TX-23), and Representative Harry Teague (NM-2).

H.R. 3155 will amend title 38, United States Code to provide certain caregivers of veterans with training, support, and medical care, and for other purposes.

The Act:

- Directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA), with respect to individuals providing noninstitutional extended care to disabled veterans, to make support services available to such caregivers, both family and non-family, including:
 1. educational sessions teaching caring techniques, strategies, and skills;
 2. respite care;
 3. nursing care;
 4. counseling and mental health services;
 5. medical care; and
 6. lodging and subsistence.
- Requires the Secretary to survey and report to specified congressional committees on such caregivers, both family and non-family.

On 7/28/2009, after passing in the House by voice vote, the Act was received in the Senate, read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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

Other News:

As follow-up to last week's information on H.R. 3293:

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) budget specifically allocates an additional \$2 million for elder falls prevention.

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 Geriatrics Society, *Transcultural Aspects of Aging & Healthcare*

WHEN: Tuesday, August 18, 2009, 7:30 am - 4:45 pm, Mesa Convention Center, 263 North Center Street, Mesa, AZ 85201

For more information:

<http://www.arizonageriatrics.org/mc/page.do?sitePageId=90747>

WHAT: Boomer Volunteer Engagement Workshop and Volunteer Fair

WHEN: Thursday, August 20, 2009, Gateway Community College, Main Building, Lower Cafeteria

For more information, click on:

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

WHAT: Arizona Health Care Association Annual Conference & Trade Show, *Back to the Future Embracing the Past, Envisioning the Future*

WHEN: August 25-27, 2009, Renaissance Glendale Hotel, Glendale Arizona

For more information and to register: www.azhca.org/events

What: Banner Alzheimer's Institute's 6th Annual conference on Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia in Native Americans,
"Weaving the Old with the New: Challenges, Solutions and Hope for Caregivers"

When: September 18, 2009, Desert Diamond Casino & Hotel in Tucson; the conference is free of charge but registration *is required*.

For more information: Call Filmer Lalio, Coordinator for the Native American Program at Banner Alzheimer's Institute; phone number (602) 239-6858

WHAT: Eighteenth Annual Elder Issues Conference, Sponsored by NACOG, Area Agency on Aging, Region III

WHEN: Wednesday, September 30, 2009, 8:30 - 4:30 pm, High Country Conference Center, 201 West Butler Avenue, Flagstaff, AZ 86001

To register or for more information, call 1-877- 521-3500

WHAT: Together We Care: Arizona Conference on Caregiving

WHEN: Thursday, November 5, 2009, North Phoenix Baptist Church, 5757 N. Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85012

For more information, email: cleary@gatewaycc.edu or call (602) 286-8153

WHAT: 2nd Annual West Valley Senior Games provided by West Valley Recreation

WHEN: Saturday, November 21, 2009, 7:30 a.m. 2:00 p.m., Friendship Park, 12325 W. McDowell Rd., Avondale AZ 85323

Pre-Registration required; registration forms available online at: <http://www.westvalleyrecreation.com/> or call (623-333-2413 for general information.

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. Please note: we try to include events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service advocates.

Thank you and have a great week!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging