

Welcome to the Legislative Update for August 21, 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:

Yesterday, the House and Senate sent the budget package passed last week along with S1025 to the Governor. While the Governor has signed H2014 today, the probability of signoff on the remaining eight bills is unknown at this time. The budget package does not include the Governor's request for a sales tax referral; it does include further cuts to state agencies.

The Joint Legislative Budget Committee Summary of the 8/20/09 Budget Plan can be found at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/ilbc/H-Sbudgetplan082009.pdf>

Both the Senate and the House have adjourned until Tuesday, August 25th at 1:00 p.m.

To review the budget bills passed by the Senate, (H2006; H2008; H2009; H2010; H2011; H2012; H2013; H2014; S1025) go to the Council's Third Special Session list provided below.

3rd Special Session List:

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

Note:

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

During this Third Special Session: You can still contact your policymakers. If you have a particular perspective to share, 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:

Earlier this month, the Senate passed **S.A. 1662**, an amendment introduced by Senator Dick Durbin (IL) for inclusion in the **2010 National Defense Authorization Act** or **S. 1390**. S.A. 1662 would support family caregivers of veterans by increasing the maximum amount of monthly compensation for service members who are injured or become ill while in the line-of-duty and who need help with everyday activities. The amendment creates a link to the family caregiver program in the Department of Veterans Affairs.

S.1150

Advance Planning and Compassionate Care Act of 2009

Introduced on 5/21/2009 by Senator John D. Rockefeller IV (WV), the bill has seven cosponsors: Senator Thomas R. Carper (DE), Senator Herb Kohl (WI), Senator Debbie Stabenow (MI), Senator Ron Wyden (OR), Senator Susan M. Collins (ME), Senator Barbara A. Mikulski (MD), and Senator Mark R. Warner (VA).

S. 1150 is intended to improve end-of-life care and:

- Directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to establish and operate directly, or by grant, contract, or interagency agreement, a 24-hour toll free telephone hotline to provide consumer information regarding advance care planning.
- Directs the Secretary to develop an online clearinghouse to provide comprehensive information regarding: (1) advance care planning; and (2) pediatric advance care planning.
- Directs the Secretary to develop an online advance care planning toolkit for availability on specified websites.
- Directs the Secretary, acting through the CDC Director, directly or through grants, contracts, or interagency agreements, to develop a national campaign to inform the public of the importance of advance care planning and of an individual's right to direct and participate in his or her health care decisions.
- Directs the Secretary to update the online version of the "Planning Ahead" section of the *Medicare & You Handbook* to include information about advanced care planning and advance directives.
- Directs the Commissioner of Social Security to update the online version of the *Social Security Handbook* for beneficiaries to include such information, as well as all paper and online versions subsequently published.
- Amends the Legal Services Corporation Act to authorize financial and legal assistance for advanced care planning.
- Directs the Secretary to award grants to states for certain state health insurance assistance programs to provide advance care planning services to Medicare beneficiaries, their personal representatives, and their families.
- Authorizes Medicaid transformation grants for advance care planning and advanced care planning community training grants.
- Directs the Secretary to make grants to eligible entities to establish new or expand existing programs for orders regarding life sustaining treatment in states or localities.
- Directs the Secretary, acting through the Administrator of Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and the Director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, to establish a website for providers under the Medicare, Medicaid, and the Children's Health Insurance Program, the Indian Health Service, and other public

health providers on each individual's right to make decisions concerning medical care, including the right to accept or refuse medical or surgical treatment, and the existence of advance directives.

- Directs the Secretary, acting through the Director of Health Resources and Services Administration, to develop a curriculum for continuing education that states may adopt for physicians and nurses on advanced care planning and end-of-life care.
- Amends titles XVIII (Medicare), XIX (Medicaid), and XXI (Children's Health Insurance) (CHIP, formerly known as SCHIP) of the Social Security Act with respect to the portability of advance directives.
- Amends the Public Health Service Act to direct the Secretary, acting through the CDC Director, to award competitive grants to eligible entities to establish and operate state advance directive registries.
- Requires various specified studies and reports to Congress by the Comptroller General and by the Secretary.
- Amends the Public Health Service Act to direct the Secretary to establish within the National Health Service Corps a National Geriatric and Palliative Care Services Corps.
- Exempts palliative medicine fellowship training from Medicare graduate medical education caps.
- Directs the Secretary to establish guidelines for the imposition by medical schools of a minimum amount of end-of-life training as a requirement for obtaining a Doctor of Medicine degree in the field of allopathic or osteopathic medicine.
- Authorizes coverage of advance care planning under Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP.
- Revises Medicare requirements for hospice payments and related matters. Makes hospice care a required Medicaid and CHIP benefit.
- Directs the Secretary, acting through the Administrator of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, to designate an entity to develop requirements, standards, and procedures for accreditation of hospital-based palliative care programs.
- Amends the Public Health Service Act to establish, within the National Institutes of Health, a National Center on Palliative and End-of-Life Care.
- Directs the Secretary to establish a demonstration program for the use of telemedicine services in advance care planning.

On 5/21/2009, the bill was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 2911, a related bill, was also introduced in the House on 6/17/2009 by Representative Earl Blumenauer (OR-3) and referred to the Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law.

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

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.

Other News:

Family Caregiver Alliance (FCA) has announced the extension of the deadline for the Rosalinde Gilbert Innovations in Alzheimer's Disease Caregiving Legacy Awards applications to August 28, 2009.

For more information, go to:

http://www.caregiver.org/caregiver/jsp/content_node.jsp?nodeid=2188

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

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 Lallo, 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