

Welcome to the Legislative Update for September 4, 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:

This afternoon, the Governor announced a series of action related to the budget package presented last week.

HB 2006: Budget: General Appropriations; FY 2009-10 - Line item vetoed (Note: eliminating cuts to K-12 and to DES)

HB 2008: Budget Reconciliation; General Govt; FY 09-10 - signed

HB 2009: Budget Reconciliation; Assets (State Properties) - signed

HB 2010: Budget Reconciliation; Criminal Justice; FY 09-10 - signed

HB 2011: Budget Reconciliation; K-12; FY 09-10 - line item vetoed

HB 2012: Budget Reconciliation; Higher Education - signed

HB 2013: Budget Reconciliation; Health and Welfare; FY 09-10 - signed

SB1025: budget Reconciliation; General Revenues - vetoed

To read the Governor's remarks, go to:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/DMS/upload/PR_090409_NewsConfRemarks.pdf

To view the transmittal letters, visit:

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

To read the joint statement from the Senate President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, go to:

<http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/press/Senate/49leg/1R/090409%5FBUDGET+VETO2%2EDOC.htm>

All of the budget bills can be found at the Council's **3rd Special Session List:**

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

The August issue of *JLBC - Monthly Fiscal Highlights* reports that July General Fund revenues were \$(33.0) million below the budget forecast. To read the August issue, click on:

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

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, go to the **Arizona State Legislature website** and look for: *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.1555

National Alzheimer's Project Act

The bill was introduced on 7/31/2009 by Senator Mel Martinez (FL). The five Cosponsors: Senator Evan Bayh (IN), Senator Susan M. Collins (ME), Senator Jon Tester (MT), Senator Michael F. Bennet (CO), and Senator Russell D. Feingold (WI).

S.155 is intended to establish the Office of the National Alzheimer's Project.

The purpose of the Office:

- accelerate the development of treatments that would prevent, halt, or reverse the course of Alzheimer's
- be responsible for the creation and maintenance of an integrated national plan to overcome Alzheimer's
- help to coordinate the health care and treatment of citizens with Alzheimer's
- ensure the inclusion of ethnic and racial populations at higher risk for Alzheimer's or least likely to receive care, in clinical, research, and service efforts with the purpose of decreasing health disparities in Alzheimer's
- coordinate with international bodies to integrate and inform the fight against Alzheimer's globally

The Director, appointed by the President with advice and consent of the Senate, will:

- oversee the creation and updating of the national plan
- use discretionary authority to evaluate all Federal programs around Alzheimer's, including budget requests and approvals
- prepare and submit to the President the annual budget estimate for the Office.

Additionally, the Director of the Office will carry out an annual assessment of the Nation's progress in preparing for the escalating burden of Alzheimer's, including both implementation steps and recommendations for priority actions based on the assessment. The Director of the Office shall serve:

- on the advisory board of the Office of Science and Technology to promote research efforts into mechanisms to slow and stop the development of Alzheimer's for those at risk of developing the disease, or may appoint a designee to sit on such board
- on the Domestic Policy Council to represent those who have or will develop Alzheimer's, including on matters of housing, transportation, and education

S. 1555 establishes, in the Office, an Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Research and Treatment and membership of the Advisory Council to include:

- a designee of the Office of Science of the Department of Energy
- a designee of the Office of the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services
- a designee of the Administration on Aging
- a designee of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
- a designee of the Indian Health Service
- a designee of the Office of the Director of the National Institutes of Health
- the Surgeon General
- a designee of the National Science Foundation
- a designee of the Department of Veterans Affairs

In addition, the Advisory Council will include 12 members from outside the Federal Government, including two members who are patient advocate members and two members who represent States and members appointed by the majority and minority leaders of the Senate, the minority leader of the House. The remaining non-federal members will be representatives of academia, research, health and elder care delivery (both community-based and institutional), technology or other related sectors. The Advisory Council will meet quarterly in meetings open to the public. An Annual Report to the Director will include:

- recommendations for information to be included in the annual report to Congress by the Office
- an annually updated national plan

An Annual Report from the Director to Congress will include:

- an evaluation of all nationally and federally funded efforts in Alzheimer's research, clinical care, institutional, and home-and-community-based programs and outcomes
- annually updated national plan

The Office will sunset on December 31, 2025.

On 7/31/2009, the bill was referred to Senate committee, read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

If you want more information specific to this or any bill, go to the Thomas website (temporarily down for maintenance) <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, 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:

Growing Smarter, Living Healthier: A Guide to Smart Growth and Active Aging is available for review or to download through The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The guidebook provides an overview of how communities work and how to advocate to help them become more 'age-friendly.' Included is a self-assessment to help communities rate themselves according to smart growth principles. To access the guidebook, go to:

<http://www.epa.gov/aging/bhc/guide/index.html>

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced a report this week on the importance of health insurance coverage for older women (ages 55 -64) and their senior peers (age 65 and older). The news release can be found at:

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2009pres/09/20090903a.html>

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

National Falls Prevention Week is September 20 - 26 and **National Falls Prevention Day** is September 22nd. For resources from NCOA, visit:

<http://www.healthyagingprograms.org/content.asp?sectionid=149>

Note: If you're interested in the **Arizona Falls Prevention Coalition**, call our office at 602-542-4710.

September 20-26 is Deaf Awareness Week promoting greater public education and awareness about deafness. The **Arizona Association of the Deaf** is holding their 2009 State Conference and festival on September 18 - 19, 2009. For more information:

<http://www.azadinc.org/conference/>

Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing has an events calendar on their website with various listings of interest to persons with hearing loss. Visit:

<http://www.acdhh.org/>

National Adult Day Services Week is September 20 - 26 To learn more about this community-based service option and to locate centers in your area, go to:

<http://www.azaads.org/>

World Alzheimer's Day is September 21st and more information about this international observance can be found at: <http://www.alz.org/index.asp>

Announcement:

The **Sierra Vista Regional Health Center** is sponsoring a free class on walking for health and wellness on September 22nd (Tuesday) at the Wellness Depot (next to Sears) in the Sierra Vista Mall. The presentation is at 10:00 to 11:00 A.M. and will offer posture correction tips, safe and effective ways to start walking, and how to improve results from your walking program. All ages are welcome; information for senior health care is included throughout the class. This presentation is an introduction to a weekly health walking class held every Tuesday morning in the Mall. For more information, contact: Dee Parks, Wellness Depot Coordinator: 520-459-8210 or diane.parks@svrhc.org .

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.

Note: The Legislative Update will be provided *monthly* with a federal focus unless a special session is called prior to the legislative session in January.

Thank you and have a safe and enjoyable holiday weekend!

~**Governor's Advisory Council on Aging**