

Welcome to the Legislative Update for January 22, 2010

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:

At the end of day twelve of the 2010 Arizona Legislative Session, 794 bills have been posted; both the House and the Senate are now adjourned until Monday afternoon, January 25th.

Budget Update:

Last Friday the Governor presented her budget plan; that information can be found at:

<http://www.governor.state.az.us/Budget2011.asp>

The Joint Legislative Budget Committee has posted budget and revenue updates. To view all of the documents, go to: <http://www.azleg.gov/ilbc/what'snew.htm> and look for the links listed under Budget and Revenue Updates

Today, the Governor announced the State has been awarded \$5 Million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds to train workers in emerging industries such as energy efficiency and renewable energy. View the press release at:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/dms/upload/PR_012210_BrewerContinuesJobCreationPush.pdf

State Legislation:

Those bills that may be of interest to Arizona seniors will be tracked by the Council and appear on the Legislative Update web page. **Please be advised that the presence of a bill on the Council's tracking list 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.

Hearings scheduled next week on bills being tracked by the Council on Aging:

H2026: Advisory Council on Aging; Continuation House Rules, 1/25/2010; 1:00 pm, House Rm. 4

H2028: Hard of Hearing Commission; Continuation House Rules, 1/25/2010; 1:00 pm, House Rm. 4

H2161: Payday Loans, Regulation House Banking & Insurance, 1/25; 2:00 pm, House Rm. 5

H2469: Certified Medication Assistants House Health & Human Services, 1/27; 9:00 am, House Rm. 4

FULL LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=24520&listid=40701&print=true>

Note: The **FULL LIST** website link above 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. ***This list will be expanded as we have an opportunity to get through all of the bills, and we will add new bills to the list on a regular basis until all bills have been posted.*** Information about bill status, hearing, etc. is a purchased service provided by the *Arizona Capitol Times*.

If you have a particular perspective to share, you can voice your thoughts through:

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**. You can locate your legislator by going to the **Arizona State Legislature website** <http://www.azleg.gov/> and looking for: *How do I find My Legislators* or by following the instructions provided at both the **Senate** and **House Member** links at the website.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

H.R. 4473

Seniors Medicare Protection Act of 2010

H.R. 4473 was introduced on 1/20/2010 by Representative Kurt Schrader (OR-5); there are no co-sponsors.

The intent of the bill is to establish an extended special enrollment period for individuals to enroll in part B of Medicare.

Seniors Medicare Protection Act of 2010- Amends title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish an extended special enrollment period for individuals to enroll in part B of Medicare.

H.R. 4473:

- Extends the enrollment period for currently employed individuals who did not elect to enroll during their initial enrollment period.

- The extended special enrollment period will be 24 months beginning the first day of the month following the end of the initial special enrollment period.
- A temporary increase in the premium may be levied based on enrollment pursuant to the extended special enrollment period.
- The temporary increase in the premium may be reduced or waived if the subscriber made a good faith effort to enroll in the initial enrollment period.

On 1/20/2010 the bill was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on Ways and Means. No related legislation has been introduced.

If you want more information specific to this or any bill, 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, 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:

The Kaiser Family Foundation has updated their *Side-By-Side Comparison of Major Health Care Reform Proposals*. To view the updated version, go to:

http://www.kff.org/healthreform/upload/housesenatebill_final.pdf

May is Older Americans Month and resources for event planning are available through the Administration on Aging at:

http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Press_Room/Observances/oam/oam.aspx

Information & Resources:

WHAT: 2010 Behavioral Health and Older Adults Conference

WHEN: February 12, 2010; 8:00 am 4:45 pm; Hilton El Conquistador Resort, 10000 North Oracle Road, Tucson, Arizona

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/BehavioralHealthOlderAdultsConf2010.pdf>

WHAT: Sierra VistAbility Day

WHEN: Saturday, March 27, 2010, 10:00 am 2:00 pm, Ethel Berger Center, 2950 E. Tacoma Street, Sierra Vista, AZ 85635

For more information:

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

WHAT: TimeOUT Workshop Featuring Mental Health Issues in the Elderly

WHEN: Thursday, May 6, 2010, Hansen Mortuaries, 6500 E. Bell Rd, Scottsdale, AZ

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/TimeoutFlyerRegFormMay2010.pdf>

WHAT: Save the Date - Hard of Hearing Training for Professionals sponsored by The Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing

WHEN: Thursday, May 27, 2010, 8:00 am 5:00 pm, University of Arizona, Tucson

For more information: call 602.542.3323 V; 602.364.0990 TTY; or check the website: <http://www.acdh.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.

Thank you and have a good week!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging