

Welcome to the Legislative Update for February 26, 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. It is our intent to offer this e-newsletter weekly during the 49th Legislature 2nd Regular Session. *The Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* Thank you for your interest!

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Budget

The *JLBC Monthly Fiscal Highlights February 2010* issue states: "General Fund revenues collections... were 2% less than last January... the first single digit year-over-year loss since September 2008." Revenues were also reported as above forecast - the first time since March 2007. To read the report, go to:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/mfh-feb-10.pdf>

Senate President Bob Burns suspended all Standing Committee hearings for next week and with House Committees not scheduled to meet, it appears the budget *is* the focus next week at the Legislature.

State Legislation

This week the following actions were filed on legislation tracked by the Council:

H2026: Advisory Council on Aging; Continuation -2/23 referred to the Senate Healthcare & Medical Liability Reform Committee

H2028: Hard of Hearing Commission; Continuation -2/23 referred to the Senate Healthcare & Medical Liability Reform Committee

H2029: Department of Health Services, Continuation - 2/23 referred to the Senate Healthcare & Medical Liability Reform Committee

H2348: Veterans; Disability Benefits - 2/22 withdrawn from the House Judiciary Committee

H2426: Adult Guardianship & Protective Proceedings - 2/22 Passed House; ready for Senate

S1278: Senior Village; Incorporation; Sr. Development - 2/24 held in Senate Finance Committee

At this time there are no hearings posted for next week on bills being tracked by the Council on Aging.

Note: You can find the agendas for hearings and check to see if the times have changed or committees have been cancelled at the Arizona State Legislature website: <http://www.azleg.gov/>

Committee Agenda link:

<http://www.azleg.gov/CommitteeAgendas.asp?Body=&ShowAll=ON>

At the end of day 47 of the 2010 Arizona Legislative Session, the totals remain the same: 1,232 bills posted; 154 memorials or resolutions posted, two bills passed and three memorials or resolutions passed.

Session Deadlines - March 19th marks the last day for Senate Committees to hear House bill and House Committees to hear Senate bills.

Both the House and the Senate are adjourned until Monday, March 1, 2010.

To view all of the legislation being tracked by the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging, click on the list below:

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 striker amendments.* Information about bill status, hearing, etc. is a purchased service provided by the *Arizona Capitol Times*.

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.

If you have a particular perspective to share about the budget process or legislation, you can voice your opinions to:

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 01/20/2010 by Representative Kurt Schrader (OR-5); there are no cosponsors.

The intent of the bill is to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act 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 (Medicare) of the Social Security Act to establish a 24-month extended special enrollment period for certain individuals to enroll under Medicare part B (Supplementary Medical Insurance).

H.R. 4473:

Requires individuals enrolled in part B during the extended special enrollment period to pay a monthly premium increased by 25% for a specified number of months.

Allows the Secretary of Health and Human Services to reduce or waive the premium increase for an individual who demonstrates that he or she made a good faith effort to enroll during the special enrollment period.

The special enrollment period is the eight consecutive months after an individual ceases to be enrolled in a group health plan by reason of current employment status.

On 01/20/2010, the bill was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Committee on Ways and Means.

If you want more information specific to this or any bill, go to the Thomas website <http://www.thomas.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 **National Resource Directory** is available online to provide information on services and resources for wounded, ill and injured Service Members, Veterans, their

families and those who support them. For more information about the National Resource Directory, go to:

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

Older adults who have survived cancer can find out what to expect once treatment ends in **Life after Cancer**, the newest topic on NIH Senior Health **www.nihseniorhealth.gov/lifeaftercancer/toc.html** .

Information & Resources:

WHAT: "Caring for an Elder?" Brown Bag Lunch presented by Native Health & Area Agency on Aging, Region One, Inc.

WHEN: Tuesday, March 2, 2010; Noon - 1:00 p.m., Native Health, 4520 N. Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ85012

For more information, go to:

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

WHAT: 2010 Caregivers' Conference, The Resilient Caregiver: Embracing the Spiritual Journey

WHEN: Saturday, March 13, 2010, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm, Tucson Convention Center, 260 S. Church Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85701

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/CaregiversConference2010.pdf>

WHAT: Arizona Living Well Symposium (Early Bird Registration Ends March 26th)

WHEN: April 9, 2010, 8:00 am 4:00 pm, Desert Botanical Garden, 1201 North Galvin Parkway, Phoenix, AZ

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/AZLWIAgendaAtGlance022310.pdf>

WHAT: Hard of Hearing Training for Professionals (Registration Deadline

Monday, March 29, 2010)

WHEN: Thursday, May 27, 2010, 8:00 am 5:00 pm, Bio5 Institute, University of Arizona, Tucson

To register and for more information:

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

WHAT: SAVE THE DATE Disability Empowerment Center 2010 Health and Wellness Fair

WHEN: Saturday, April 10, 2010; 10 am 3 pm; Disability Empowerment Center (DEC) 5025 E. Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ 85034

For more information:

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

WHAT: Crime Victims Rights: Fairness, Dignity, Respect

WHEN: April 19, 2010, 9:00 am, Carnegie Center, 1101 West Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85007

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/2010SavetheDate.pdf>

WHAT: 22nd Annual Arizona Indian Council on Aging Conference, Our Elders: Living Treasures

WHEN: April 19-22, 2010, Radisson Ft. McDowell Resort & Casino, 10438 N. Ft. McDowell Road, Fountain Hills, AZ 85264

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/2010AICOASavetheDate.pdf>

WHAT: Caring for a Loved One At Home; Family Caregiver Training Classes
Sponsored by Northern Arizona Council of Governments Area Agency on Aging Family Caregiver Program & the Town of Prescott Valley

WHEN: May 3, 4, 6th and May 11 & 12, 2010, Prescott Valley Civic Center, 7601 E. Civic Circle, Room 331, Prescott Valley, AZ

For more information and registration, go to:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/Flyer1PrescottValley.pdf>

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