

## Welcome to the Legislative Update for February 4, 2011

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 when the state legislature is in session. *The Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* Thank you for your interest!

### **Budget related news:**

On Thursday, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services issued a letter to states regarding Medicaid programs. The news release regarding the letter is linked here:

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2011pres/01/20110203a.html>

Governor Brewer's letter of response is found at:

[http://www.azgovernor.gov/dms/upload/PR\\_020311\\_SebeliusLetter.pdf](http://www.azgovernor.gov/dms/upload/PR_020311_SebeliusLetter.pdf)

The Joint Legislative and Budget Committee (JLBC) Appropriations Committee hearing presentations (updated 2/4/2011) is linked at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/appropspresentations.pdf>

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### **STATE LEGISLATION:**

**Legislative action** taking place on *some* of the bills the Council is tracking:

**H2155: Dental Board; Omnibus:** stricken from the House consent calendar on 2/1/2011.

**H2157: DHS; Stroke Care Protocols:** from House Health & Human Services Committee with striker amendment #4058 on 2/2/2011.

**H2169: Dental Board; Fees:** from House Employment & Regulatory Affairs Committee with amendment #4047 on 2/1/2011.

**H2303: Voting Centers; Polling Places:** from House Judiciary Committee with amendment #4075 on 2/3/2011.

**S1147: Palliative Care; Patient Information:** Referred to the Senate Healthcare & Medical Liability Reform Committee on 2/1/2011.

**S1499: Probate; Omnibus:** Referred to the Senate Public Safety & Human Services Committee on 2/1/2011.

**Hearings:**

**H2634: DHS; Health Care Institution; Rules,** House Health & Human Services, 2/9 at 9 am, House Room 4

**For a complete list of legislative action and hearings, see the information provided at the FULL LIST link below.**

A summary of all legislative action on bills the Council is tracking can be found on the **FULL LIST** link provided below.

(To learn more about the legislative process, see the *Bill Process* link <http://www.azleg.gov/alisPDFs/hbillaw.pdf> or *Bill to Law* link <http://www.azleg.gov/alisPDFs/BillToLaw.pdf> at the Arizona State Legislature website.)

At the end of day 26, 1,254 bills posted and three passed, two signed; 116 memorials or resolutions posted, 9 passed. Of the bills posted, several may be of interest to Arizona seniors and 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 may be of interest to or have an impact on Arizona seniors so the Council is tracking the bill's progress.

**FULL LIST:**

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=24635&listid=43827&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 continue to be edited and expanded as we have an opportunity to get through all of the bills. We will add new bills to the list on a regular basis until all bills have been posted.*** Once all bills have been filed and reviewed, we will establish the Council's **SHORT LIST** – those bills of particular focus as they affect health and safety of older adults. Note: Information about bill status, hearing, etc. is a purchased service provided by the *Arizona Capitol Times*.

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If you're interested in committee assignments and schedules, you can find that information at the Arizona State Legislature website. Standing committee links are found at: <http://www.azleg.gov/StandingCom.asp>. Committee agendas and hearing schedules are posted at: <http://www.azleg.gov/CommitteeAgendas.asp>.

If you have a particular perspective to share with the administration or the legislature, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

**Governor's Office of Constituent Services** at 602-542-1318 or toll-free at 1-800-253-0883 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.

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**FEDERAL LEGISLATION:**

**H.R.370**

**Preventing Affinity Scams for Seniors Act of 2011 or the PASS Act of 2011**

Introduced on January 20, 2011 by Representative Joe Baca (CA-43), the bill has no cosponsors.

H.R.370 requires financial institutions to offer services to protect seniors (65 and older) from affinity scams and to report suspected affinity scams. Affinity scams means a transaction in which a person trusted by a senior, such as a caregiver, relative, guardian, new friend, or service provider, claims to share similar interests or values with the senior, establishes a relationship with the senior (either on the person's own initiative or through some other method, such as a court-appointed guardianship), and then uses the relationship to defraud the senior. \_

Staff Education and Training.

Each financial institution shall:

- (1) educate the staff of the financial institution about affinity scams and how to identify transactions that may be part of an affinity scam; and
- (2) train staff members on educating seniors about affinity scams.

Senior Customer Education

Each financial institution shall provide educational materials and other information to seniors who maintain a deposit account with the financial institution about affinity scams and how to identify transactions that may be part of an affinity scam.

Education and Training Oversight

The Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection shall:

- (1) issue such regulations as are necessary to carry out this section; and
- (2) periodically audit financial institutions to ensure compliance with such regulations

## Senior Protection Account Requirements

(1) With respect to a senior who maintains a senior protection account with a financial institution, if the financial institution receives a transaction request to debit such account and, before processing the transaction, the financial institution identifies the transaction as possibly being part of an affinity scam, the financial institution shall:

(A) not process the transaction; and

(B) initiate an investigation in order to determine if such transaction is part of an affinity scam or is legitimate.

H.R.370 outlines a notification process if an affinity scam is determined to alert the senior, law enforcement and the Bureau of Financial Protection.

On 1/20/2011, the bill was referred to the Committee on Financial Services and in the Committee on Ways and Means.

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If you want more information specific to any bill, go to the Thomas website <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and enter the bill number under *Search Bill Summary & Status*. Did you know? You can access the latest legislative activities and visit congressional schedules and calendars under *Current Activity* on the Thomas homepage.

**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.

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### **Other News:**

During *American Heart Month*, the **National Institutes of Health (NIH)** urge women to take charge of their heart:

<http://www.nih.gov/news/health/feb2011/nhlbi-04.htm>

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**Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics (Forum)** released the *Older Americans 2010: Key Indicators of Well-Being (Older Americans 2010)*.

To view the report, go to:

[http://www.agingstats.gov/agingstatsdotnet/Main\\_Site/Data/2010/Documents/Docs/OA\\_2010.pdf](http://www.agingstats.gov/agingstatsdotnet/Main_Site/Data/2010/Documents/Docs/OA_2010.pdf)

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**From the USDA and HHS** – new dietary guidelines...“to promote health, reduce the risk of chronic diseases, and reduce the prevalence of overweight and obesity through improved nutrition and physical activity.” The information can be found at:

<http://www.cnpp.usda.gov/dietaryguidelines.htm>

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**INFORMATION & RESOURCES:**

**WHAT: Hospice of the Valley *Understanding the Journey of Dementia* workshops**

**WHEN: Wednesday, February 9; Saturday, February 12; Wednesday, February 16; & Wednesday February 23**

For *locations and times*, go to:

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

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**WHAT: Border Conference on Disability**

**WHEN: March 4, 2011**, 9 am – 4:30 pm, The Quality Inn in Nogales, Arizona 85621; Teleconference participation available in Yuma and Douglas.

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/2011BorderConfFlyer.pdf>

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**WHAT: Arizona Partners in Preparedness Seminar, *Forging Relationships with Disability and Emergency Management Communities***

**WHEN: March 9-10, 2011**, Disability Empowerment Center, 5025 E. Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona.

For more information: <http://enableus.org/upcoming-events/APP2011/APP.html>

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**WHAT: 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Arizona Military Women's Conference**

**WHEN: Saturday, April 30 and Sunday, May 1, 2011**; Sheraton Crescent Hotel, Phoenix, AZ.

For more information:

[http://dvs.az.gov/women\\_veterans/womens\\_conference.aspx](http://dvs.az.gov/women_veterans/womens_conference.aspx)

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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](mailto:gaca@az.gov) .

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

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**Note: The next *Legislative Update* will be distributed in *two weeks*.**

**Thank you and have a good weekend!**

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