

Welcome to the Legislative Update for December 12, 2011

This *very abbreviated version* of our regular 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. The 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!

Between sessions of the Arizona State Legislature, it is our intent to offer the *Legislative Update* monthly.

The 2nd Regular Session of the 50th Legislature starts next month. The Legislative Council's Calendar Deadlines can be found at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/alispdfs/council/CalendarDeadlines.pdf>.

Standing House and Senate Committees and members can be found at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/StandingCom.asp>.

Fiscal News

Latest from the **Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC)**

The ***JLBC Monthly Fiscal Highlights November 2011*** report indicates:

"October continued the state's trend of revenue growth as base General Fund collections (excluding one-time adjustments) grew for the 15th consecutive month and were 16.6% above the prior year."

To view the report, go to: <http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/mfh-nov-11.pdf>.

The most *recent update* to the JLBC report, ***Tracking Arizona's Recovery*** is provided at: <http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/TrackingAZRecovery1111.pdf>.

Other News

The **U.S. Supreme Court** announced today that it will review and hear arguments on Arizona v. United States, 11-182.

To read the **Governor's** comments, go to:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/dms/upload/PR_121211_SupremesTakeSB1070.pdf.

Although the **Arizona State Legislature** is currently not in session, **Interim Committee meetings and agendas** are posted at: <http://www.azleg.gov/InterimCommittees.asp>.

Share your thoughts! If you have a particular perspective to share with the Governor or your legislators at any time, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-4331 or toll-free at 1-800-253-0883 (outside Maricopa County only) 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 OVERVIEW:

H.R.3546

Senior Veterans Housing Assistance Act of 2011

Introduced on December 1, 2011 by Representative Michael R. Turner (OH-3), the bill is intended to allow an occupancy preference for veterans in housing projects developed on property of the Department of Veterans Affairs with assistance provided under the Department of Housing and Urban Development program for supportive housing for very low-income elderly persons.

Occupancy Preference for Veterans

Notwithstanding section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959 (12 U.S.C. 1701q) or any other provision of law applicable to assistance under such section or to a project assisted under such section, a preference may be established for occupancy by veterans who are very low-income elderly persons in dwelling units in any supportive housing project for the elderly that-

(1) is provided assistance under such section by the Department of Housing and Urban Development; and

(2)(A) is or would be located on property of the Department of Veterans Affairs; or

(B) is subject to an enhanced use lease with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

On December 1, 2011, H.R.3546 was referred to the House Committee on Financial Services.

S.1942

Senior Transportation and Mobility Improvement Act of 2011

Introduced on December 5, 2011 by Senator Herb Kohl (WI), the bill is intended to amend title 49, United States Code, to improve transportation for seniors, and for other purposes.

On December 5, 2011, the bill was read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Note: The National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD) reported the following regarding S.1942:

The bill builds upon existing public transit programs for older adults and individuals with disabilities by increasing state flexibility in implementing these federal programs, and addressing program transparency efforts by strengthening planning, data, and reporting requirements.

In part, the legislation seeks to make some changes to the Section 5310 Elderly and Disabled Program by authorizing states to use their annual allocations to assist with the costs of operating vehicles at a 50 percent federal match, and by allowing states to use up to 33 percent of any increase in their allocation for operating and maintenance needs after FY12. Additionally, the bill would provide the National Center on Senior Transportation (NCST) with additional funding to help the Center provide both technical assistance and seed grants to innovative community programs, and it would also establish a supplemental Federal Transit Association (FTA) mobility management program for older adults and people with disabilities.

NOTE: If you want information specific to a bill, go to the Thomas website <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and enter the bill number under *Search Bill Summary & Status*.

Ahead of this week's legislative deadlines, the holidays and the new year -

From **Kaiser Health News:** *Lawmakers Move Closer to Completing Legislative To Do List:*
<http://www.kaiserhealthnews.org/Daily-Reports/2011/December/12/cap-hill-to-do-list.aspx>

Share your opinions with your Congressional Members!

If you are interested in sharing your thoughts or concerns, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for the **House** or <http://www.senate.gov/> for the **Senate**. Links to the membership lists include: <http://www.house.gov/representatives/> for the **House** and http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm for the **Senate**.

You can contact the White House at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>.

A compilation of contact information is provided at:
<http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml>.

Other News:

From the **National Center on Senior Transportation**

Mobility Management grant opportunity for projects that demonstrate innovative and effective solutions to enhance the mobility of older adults through person-centered mobility management. The focus of the grants is on older adults, although projects may also target adults with disabilities. A focus on culturally and ethnically diverse older adults is strongly encouraged. Grants will be awarded for a maximum of \$50,000 and grantees will be expected to complete their work in approximately nine to twelve months. The RFP, application instructions, the application, and a budget narrative worksheet to accompany the application are available online. For more information, contact Lynn Winchell-Mendy at lwinchellmendy@n4a.org or 202-872-0888. Applications due: December 23.

On November 8th, the **Alzheimer's Association** released, **Alzheimer's from the Frontlines: Challenges a National Alzheimer's Plan Must Address**. A link to the report is provided here: http://www.alz.org/documents_custom/napareport.pdf

From the **U.S. Census Bureau - The Older Population 2010**

To view the 2010 Census Brief, go to:

<http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-09.pdf>

From **N4A** - 2010 survey of Area Agencies on Aging

http://www.n4a.org/pdf/2011_AAA_Survey_Report.PDF

From the **U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS)**

A Report on the Actuarial, Marketing, and Legal Analyses of the **CLASS Program** by HHS

<http://aspe.hhs.gov/daltcp/Reports/2011/class/index.shtml>

From the **Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)**

[Medicaid.gov](http://www.Medicaid.gov)

From the **National Institute on Aging**

Go4Life Free Publications and Guides <http://go4life.niapublications.org/print/164>

From the **National Council on Aging**

BenefitsCheckUp celebrates 10 years of providing a free, online screening service for older adults seeking information on available benefit programs for medications, food, utilities, legal, health care, housing, in-home services, taxes, transportation, and employment training. To view the website, go to: <http://www.benefitscheckup.org/>

From the National Institutes of Health

Research in Action - Key Hearing Proteins Identified:

<http://www.nih.gov/researchmatters/december2011/12052011hearing.htm>

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

WHAT: Fall Prevention Free Workshop (attendees receive a Fall Prevention Resource Toolkit)

WHEN: December 14, 1 - 2 pm, Adult Center of Prescott, 1280 E. Rosser Street. Presented by ResCare HomeCare in collaboration with Banner Good Samaritan Medical Center, John C. Lincoln Hospital and The Brain Injury Association of Arizona.

For more information: (928) 778-3000

WHAT: *Transportation for the Underserved - without a ride, life unravels* (West Valley Human Services Alliance)

WHEN: Friday, February 10, 2012, 9 am to 4 pm, Desert Springs Community Church, 14440 West Indian School Road, Goodyear, Arizona 85395

Registration at: <http://wvhsa.acfbci.org/>

WHAT: 24th Annual Arizona Indian Council on Aging Conference "Elders Holding our Nations Together"

WHEN: March 12 to 15, 2012, The Westin La Paloma Resort & Spa, 3800 East Sunrise Drive, Tucson, AZ 85718

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/2012AICOAConfSaveTheDate.pdf>

Here is a link to a free newsletter for Caregivers with resources targeting northern Arizona:

<http://www.caregiverconnection.us/>.

The **Governor's Advisory Council on Aging** wishes to thank those who participated in the seven **Senior Action Days** held in **2011**. Our intent was to provide opportunities for seniors and their advocates to join in a dialogue with Council members, invited state legislators and local officials about issues of concern. We're pleased to have had participation by state legislators, county supervisors, local mayors and city council members, and staff from Senator Kyl's office at these events. The Advisory Council on Aging uses the input received from these events to help shape priorities for the work of the Council's Committees and provides the input to administration, the legislature and state agencies.

Just in case you're interested:

Back issues of the **Legislative Updates** are linked on the Council website at:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/LegUpdates.asp>

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.

Best wishes for the holiday season and a very happy new year to all!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging