

## Welcome to the Legislative Update for February 24, 2012

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. 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!

### 2<sup>nd</sup> REGULAR SESSION OF THE 50<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE

#### **Legislative Budget**

Early this week, the Senate introduced **SB1523 - SB1532**, and the House introduced **HB2852 - HB2861**.

Information on the **Senate bills** can be found on links at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/Bills.asp?FirstBill=SB1501&LastBill=SB1550>

and information on the **House bills** at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/Bills.asp?FirstBill=HB2851&LastBill=HB2900>.

On 2/22, S1523 through S1532 recommended by the Senate Appropriations Committee with do pass. On 2/21, H2852 through 2861 were recommended by the House Appropriations Committee with do pass.

**JLBC** posted the ***Budget Proposal as Introduced*** summary, provided at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/budgetproposalasintroduced022112rev.pdf>

The **Governor's** budget information is posted at:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/Priorities/BudgetInfo.asp>

#### **Other fiscal news**

The **Joint Legislative Budget Committee (JLBC)** ***Monthly Fiscal Highlights February 2012*** indicates "While January collections showed large gains, base sales tax revenues only increased 2.5%, reflecting a mild growth in December holiday sales."

The report is available at: <http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/mfh-feb-12.pdf>.

The JLBC **Tracking Arizona's Recovery February 2012** update is posted at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/TrackingAZRecovery0212.pdf>

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#### **Legislative Action**

This past week, 896 floor actions were filed; 147 of those related to legislation tracked by the Council on Aging. (See **FULL LIST** link)

The next deadline is March 16<sup>th</sup> – the last day for House committees to hear Senate bills and the Senate committees to hear House bills.

Senate calendar:

<http://www.azleg.gov/alispdfs/50leg/senate/senatedeadlines.pdf>

House calendar: <http://www.azleg.gov/alispdfs/50leg/house/housedeadlines.pdf>

**Legislation:**

Legislative action on some of the bills tracked by the Council on Aging is outlined here with fact sheets from the Arizona State Legislature or summaries provided by *Arizona Capitol Reports-LOLA* and found on the **FULL LIST**.

**H2259: Dental Board; Omnibus;** 2/22 from Senate Healthcare and Medical Liability Reform Committee with do pass. Senate fact sheet:

<http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/summary/s.2259hmlr.pdf>

**H2264: Retirement; ASRS; Employee; Employer Contribution Rate,** 2/23 from House Appropriations Committee with amendment. House Summary:

[http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/summary/h.hb2264\\_02-23-12\\_caucuscow.pdf](http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/summary/h.hb2264_02-23-12_caucuscow.pdf)

**H2472: AHCCCS; Cancer Screening;** For the purpose of breast and cervical cancer treatment under AHCCCS, the requirements a person must meet in order to be eligible are modified so that the breast and cervical cancer screening was done by a provider recognized by the AZ well woman healthcheck program administered by the Department of Health Services. 2/23 from House Rules committee with okay.

**H2526: Skilled Nursing Home Provider Assessments;** 2/23 withdrawn from House Appropriations Committee.

**H2655: Developmental Disabilities Services; Providers; Monitoring;** Mandatory monitoring of Department of Economic Security contracts for residential care services for developmentally disabled persons is reduced to once every three years (from once each year) for service providers with deemed status, and to once each year (from once every six months) for service providers with a score of 95 percent or more on the previous monitoring visit. 2/20 from House Rules Committee with okay.

**H2674: Central Repository; Nonprofit Organization;** 2/20 from House Rules Committee with okay.

**S1177: DES Contractors; Unpaid Personnel; Fingerprinting;** 2/20 passed Senate 24-2; ready for the House.

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**Hearings next week:**

Some of the hearings scheduled next week on legislation (tracked on the Council's **FULL LIST**) are listed below.

**S1119: Retirement; ASRS; Spousal Consent;** 2/28 House Employment & Regulatory Affairs Committee at 2 pm, House Room 3.

**S1131: Transportation Project Advancement Notes;** 2/27 House Ways & Means Committee at 2 pm, House Room 3.

Be sure to check all the summaries and listing of hearings and committee meetings found at the **FULL LIST** link below.

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**Overview of Strikers; Name Changing Amendments:**

**S1010: Nursing Board; Executive Director; Authority** (formerly Tech Correction: AHCCCS; Capitation Rates)

Authorizes the Board of Nursing (Board) Executive Director (Director) to order substance abuse, psychological or other evaluations and establishes protocol relating to the Director's responsibilities to the Board.

**S1153: Strike Everything Amendments to SB 1153 relating to hearing aid dispensers; licensure** (formerly Capital Outlay; Stabilization Fund; Report)

Modifies the examination requirements for a hearing aid dispenser. Requires the DHS to offer the written examination at least quarterly for each calendar year. Removes the requirement that the examination include practical tests of proficiency in the specified Techniques and Skills. Requires an applicant to demonstrate practical proficiency in the Techniques and Skills by completing at least 160 hours of work under the direction of a licensed hearing dispenser who must certify to the Director that the applicant has knowledge and proficiency in:

- identification of medical aspects or conditions relating to abnormal middle ear problems;
- conducting oral examinations on speech audiometry;
- obtaining air and bone conduction thresholds using simulators;
- hearing aid maintenance and service;
- selecting a particular hearing aid based on an audiogram review;
- determining the effects of different ear mold modifications; and
- taking an ear mold impression.

**S1161: Handicap Placard;** (formerly Tech Correction: State Institutions)

Would allow physically disabled to have more than one removable windshield placard for multiple cars.

**S1188: Medical Board; Duties; Meetings; Procedures** (formerly Hospital Internships; Residencies; Clinical Fellowships)

Adds requirements pertaining to records, complaints and personnel training to the statutes governing the Arizona Medical Board.

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At the end of day 47 of the legislative session, **1,393** bills posted; **4** passed; **2** signed by the Governor; **141** memorials or resolutions posted; **10** passed. Several of the bills 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 likely to be of interest to or have an impact on older Arizonans so the Council is tracking the bill's progress.

**FULL LIST:**

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=24822&listid=45455&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/or expanded as we have an opportunity to consider actions taken.*** Information about bill status, hearing, etc. is a purchased service provided by the *Arizona Capitol Times*.

At this time, both the House and the Senate are adjourned until 1:30 pm on Monday, February 27, 2012.

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**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.

If you would like to learn more about how a bill becomes law, see these links at the Arizona State Legislature's website: <http://www.azleg.gov/alisPDFs/BillToLaw.pdf> and <http://www.azleg.gov/alisPDFs/hbillaw.pdf>.

If you want to know who serves on the House and Senate Standing Committees, go to: <http://www.azleg.gov/StandingCom.asp> and click on the committee name.

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**FEDERAL OVERVIEW:**

**H.R.4023**

**Veterans' Telehealth and Telemedicine Improvement Act**

Introduced on 2/24/2012 by Representative Kathleen C. Hochul (NY-26)

To amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the use of teleconsultation, teleretinal imaging, telemedicine, and telehealth coordination services for the provision of health care to veterans, and for other purposes.

On 2/14/2012 referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs

#### **H.R.4042**

##### **Veterans' Access to Care Act**

Introduced on 2/15/2012 by Representative Bruce L. Braley (IA-1)

To amend the Public Health Service Act to designate certain medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs as health professional shortage areas, and for other purposes.

On 2/15/2012, referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

#### **H.R.4079**

##### **Safe Housing for Homeless Veterans Act**

Introduced on 2/17/2012 by Representative David B. McKinley (WV-1)

To amend title 38, United States Code, to require recipients of grants and other assistance from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for the provision of housing and other services for homeless veterans to comply with codes relevant to operations and level of care provided, and for other purposes.

On 2/17/2012, referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

#### **H.R.4028**

##### **Senior Transportation and Mobility Improvement Act of 2012**

Introduced on 2/14/2012 by Representative Bill Pascrell, Jr. (NJ-8)

According to Congressional Findings, the number of individuals in the United State who are 65 years of age or older will increase from 40,000,000 in 2010 to 72,000,000 in 2030, yet a 2004 report by the Surface Transportation Policy Project found that more than 1 in 5 (or 21 percent) of individuals who are 65 years of age or older do not drive. H.R. 4028 amends title 49 of the United States Code to improve transportation for seniors. The bill specifically focuses on public transportation services, metropolitan and statewide transition planning, and technical assistance and mobility management. Specific provisions include:

- Directing new funding (\$11.5 million over two years) to the National Center on Senior Transportation (NCST) to provide technical assistance to transit and human service organizations and disseminate best practices associated with senior transportation.
- Establishing a supplemental FTA Mobility Management program for older and disabled adults, to connect them with the best available transportation options in their communities.
- Providing \$8 million over two years to award grants to non-profit aging services organizations to offer mobility management services and enhanced technology to support these services.

2/14/2012, referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Related bill: **S.1942**

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**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*.

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### 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](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>.

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### Other News:

**Administration on Aging** has released ***A Profile of Older Americans: 2011***. A link to the pdf file posted on their website is provided here:

[http://www.aoa.gov/AoAroot/Aging\\_Statistics/Profile/2011/docs/2011profile.pdf](http://www.aoa.gov/AoAroot/Aging_Statistics/Profile/2011/docs/2011profile.pdf)

**Also:** this resource is a part of the AoA off-site resource list and offers ideas on **long term care planning**. [http://longtermcare.gov/LTC/Main\\_Site/index.aspx](http://longtermcare.gov/LTC/Main_Site/index.aspx)

Did you know? The **Arizona Department of Health Services** offers an online search option for information about care facilities, providers and enforcement actions at: <http://azdhs.gov/als/search/>.

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**Kaiser Family Foundation** – *Income-Relating Medicare Part B and Part D Premiums Under Current Law and Recent Proposals: What are the Implications for Beneficiaries?* <http://www.kff.org/medicare/upload/8276.pdf>

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**U.S. Department of Labor** announced an extension of comment period on proposed rule to provide minimum wage and overtime protections for in-home care workers. For more information, go to: <http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/whd/whd20120331.htm>

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**National Institute on Aging** – “What’s on *Your* Plate? Smart Choices for Healthy Aging” <http://www.nia.nih.gov/health/publication/whats-your-plate-smart-food-choices-healthy-aging>

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**INFORMATION & RESOURCES:**

**WHAT:** Arizona Housing Alliance Academy – *Affordable Housing Impact: Breaking Barriers, Creating Jobs, Stabilizing Neighborhoods*

**WHEN:** Thursday, March 22, 2012 from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm, Wells Fargo Conference Center, 100 W. Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ 85003

For more information: <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=aom6kddab&oeidk=a07e5ijyppu1a12e0573>

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**WHAT:** 2012 AzTA/ADOT Transit Conference *Showcasing Value in Transit*

**WHEN:** April 23 - 24, 2012, High Country Conference Center, Northern Arizona University

For more information: <http://www.azta.org/conference/overview/2012-azta-adot-transit-conference/>

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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>

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If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration, be sure to send 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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**Enjoy your weekend!**

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging