

## Welcome to the Legislative Update for March 2, 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

Lots of action at the legislature this week; 782 floor actions were filed; 70 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>

No report available on budget negotiations.

Senate budget proposal bills are **SB 1523 to SB1532** and House budget proposal bills are **HB 2852 to 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>.

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

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

**JLBC Budget Proposal as Introduced** summary is provided at:

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

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### Legislation:

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

**H2199: I Didn't Pay Enough Fund**; 3/1 referred to the Senate Finance Committee.

House Engrossed Summary:

[http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/summary/h.hb2199\\_02-29-12\\_houseengrossed.pdf](http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/summary/h.hb2199_02-29-12_houseengrossed.pdf)

**H2264: Retirement; ASRS; Employee; Employer Contribution Rate**, 3/1 from House Rules Committee with okay.

House Engrossed Version:

<http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/bills/hb2264h.pdf>

**H2526: Skilled Nursing Home Provider Assessments**; 2/29 from House Rules Committee with okay.

House Engrossed Version:

<http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/bills/hb2526h.pdf>

**H2560: Adult Protective Services, Attorney Fees**; 3/1 House Committee of the Whole (COW) approved with amendment. Passed House 37-18; ready for Senate.

House Engrossed Summary:

[http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/summary/h.hb2560\\_03-01-12\\_houseengrossed.pdf](http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/summary/h.hb2560_03-01-12_houseengrossed.pdf)

**H2674: Central Repository; Nonprofit Organization**; 2/29 referred to Senate Public Safety & Human Services Committee.

House Engrossed Summary:

[http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/summary/h.hb2674\\_02-28-12\\_houseengrossed.pdf](http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/summary/h.hb2674_02-28-12_houseengrossed.pdf)

**H2696: Vulnerable Adults: Financial Exploitation**; referred to Senate Public Safety & Human Services Committee.

House Engrossed Version:

<http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/bills/hb2696h.pdf>

**H2713: Arizona Long-Term Care Trust**; 2/29 from House Rules Committee with okay.

House Engrossed Summary:

[http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/summary/h.hb2713\\_02-28-12\\_caucuscow%20\(2\).pdf](http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/summary/h.hb2713_02-28-12_caucuscow%20(2).pdf)

**S1189: Health Professionals; State Regulation; Exception**; 3/1 referred to House Health & Human Services Committee.

Senate Engrossed Version:

<http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/bills/sb1189s.pdf>

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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.

**H2674: Central State Repository; Nonprofit Organization;** 3/7 Senate Public Safety & Human Services Committee, 10 am, Senate Room 3.

**H2696: Vulnerable Adults; Financial Exploitation;** 3/7 Senate Public Safety & Human Services Committee, 10 am, Senate 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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At the end of day 54 of the legislative session, 1,395 bills posted; 5 passed; 5 signed by the Governor; 143 memorials or resolutions posted; 16 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, March 5, 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.4087**

#### **Prescription Drug Labeling Promotion Act of 2012**

Introduced on 2/24/2012 by Representative Edward J. Markey (MA-7)

To provide for the development and dissemination of best practices to ensure that visually-impaired and blind individuals in the United States have safe, consistent, reliable, and independent access to the information in prescription drug labeling.

On 2/24/2012, referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce

### **H.R.4091**

#### **Coordination of Pro Bono Medically Recommended Dental Care Act**

Introduced on 2/27/2012 by Representative Diana DeGette (CO-1)

To assist low-income individuals in obtaining medically recommended dental care.

On 2/27/2012, referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

### **H.R.4114**

#### **Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2012**

Introduced on 2/29/2012 by Representative Jon Runyan (NJ-3)

To increase, effective as of December 1, 2012, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

On 2/29/2012, referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Related bills: H.R.1407, S.894

### **H.R.4120**

#### **Removing Barriers to Colorectal Cancer Screening Act of 2012**

Introduced on 3/1/2012 by Representative Charles W. Dent (PA-15)

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to waive coinsurance under Medicare for colorectal cancer screening tests, regardless of whether therapeutic intervention is required during the screening.

On 3/1/2012, referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and to the Committee on Ways and Means.

**H.R.4127**

**Title: To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to exempt certain requests by physicians for consultations by radiation oncologists from the limitation on certain physician referrals under Medicare.**

Introduced on 3/1/2012 by Representative Joseph J. Heck (NV-3)

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to exempt certain requests by physicians for consultations by radiation oncologists from the limitation on certain physician referrals under Medicare.

On 3/1/2012, referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and to the Committee on Ways and Means.

**H.RES.564**

**Title: Recognizing the critical importance of the supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP), formerly called the food stamp program.**

Introduced on 2/27/2012 by Representative Janice D. Schakowsky (IL-9)

On 2/27/2012, referred to House Committee on Agriculture.

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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:**

**Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality - AHRQ** *Healthcare Innovations Exchange* provides information on programs that provide individual and group education, coaching, and support sessions for patients with dementia and their caregivers.

<http://www.innovations.ahrq.gov/>

Caregivers Count Too! Toolkit: <http://www.innovations.ahrq.gov/content.aspx?id=3393>

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National Council on Aging – Home Equity Advisor website:  
[http://www.homeequityadvisor.org/?utm\\_source=NCOAWeek\\_120228&utm\\_medium=newsletter&utm\\_campaign=NCOAWeek](http://www.homeequityadvisor.org/?utm_source=NCOAWeek_120228&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=NCOAWeek)

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National Institutes of Health – *Blockade of Learning and Memory Genes may Occur Early in Alzheimer's Disease:*

<http://www.nih.gov/news/health/feb2012/ninds-29.htm>

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In case you missed it in the last issue...  
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)

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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=a07e5ijyvu1a12e0573>

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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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Coming later this summer

**WHAT: 2012 Behavioral Health and Older Adults Conference;** Trends, Issues, Solutions

**WHEN: Friday, June 15, 2012,** Casino Del Sol Conference Center, 5655 W. Valencia Rd., Tucson, AZ

For more information, contact the Community Partnership of Southern Arizona at conference @bhacsa.com. (<http://www.cpsa-rbha.org/>)

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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**