

Welcome to the Legislative Update for March 30, 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!

2nd REGULAR SESSION OF THE 50TH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Action

During the past week, 376 floor actions were filed; 34 of those related to legislation tracked by the Council on Aging. (See **FULL LIST** link) At the end of **day 82** of the legislative session, **1,395 bills** posted; **191 passed**; **155 signed** by the Governor; **2 vetoed**; **144 memorials or resolutions** posted; **31 passed**. Four bills tracked by the Council remain on the list of bills passed and awaiting signing. The Governor may choose to sign, veto or allow a bill to become law without signature.

Next deadline is Friday, April 13th; the last day for Conference Committees in both the Senate and the House.

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

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

The House and the Senate are adjourned until Monday, April 2nd at 1:30 p.m.

Fiscal News

The Joint Legislative Budget Committee released their *JLBC Monthly Fiscal Highlights March 2012* report that indicates "The February forecast shortfall was largely due to higher than expected individual income tax refunds." The report is available at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/mfh-mar-12.pdf>

The latest JLBC *Tracking Arizona's Recovery* is available at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/TrackingAZRecovery0312.pdf>

Legislation

Administrative and 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**.

Bills signed by the Governor that the Council has been tracking:

H2534: AHCCCS: Payment Methodology

House summary as transmitted to the Governor:

http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/summary/h.hb2534_02-16-12_astransmittedtogovernor.pdf

H2655: Developmental Disability Services; Providers; Monitoring

House summary as transmitted to the Governor:

http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/summary/h.hb2655_03-30-12_astransmittedtogovernor.pdf

H2807: Redistricting Commission; Open Meeting Law

House summary as transmitted to the Governor:

http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/summary/h.hb2807_03-27-12_astransmittedtogovernor.pdf

S1116: Retirement; PSPRS; Corp; EORP Amendments

House summary as transmitted to the Governor:

http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/summary/h.sb1116_03-27-12_astransmittedtogovernor.pdf

S1152: Homeless Court; Establishment; Jurisdiction

Senate engrossed version of bill:

<http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/bills/sb1152s.pdf>

S1188: Medical Board; Duties; Meetings; Procedures

House summary as transmitted to the Governor:

http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/summary/h.sb1188_03-30-12_astransmittedtogovernor.pdf

Legislative Action

H2165: Veterans; Employment Preference, 3/28, passed Senate; ready for the Governor.

H2560: Adult Protective Services; Attorney Fees, 3/29, House concurred in Senate amendments and passed on final reading; ready for the Governor.

S1141: Public Fiduciaries; Investigatory Power, 3/27, passed House; ready for the Governor.

S1152: Homeless Court; Establishment; Jurisdiction; passed House; ready for the Governor.

Hearings next week on bills tracked by the Council:

H2160: HOAs; Condos; Election Procedures, 4/2 Senate Rules Committee at 1:00 pm, Senate Caucus Room.

H2377: Incapacitated Persons; Voting Rights, 4/2 Senate Third Reading.

H2428: Veteran Benefits; Reservists, 4/2 Senate Third Reading.

H2696: Vulnerable Adults; Financial Exploitation, 4/2 Senate Third Reading.

H2713: Insurance Premiums; Long-Term Care; Deduction, 4/2 Senate Rules Committee at 1:00 pm, Senate Caucus Room.

H2745: Retirement; PSPRS: Employer Contributions, 4/2 Senate Rules Committee at 1:00 pm, Senate Caucus Room.

Be sure to check the listing of hearings as scheduled next week on the Council's **FULL LIST** link provided below.

Several of the bills posted this session may be of interest to Arizona seniors and will continue to 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 as we track actions taken. Information about bill status, hearing, etc. is a purchased service provided by the *Arizona Capitol Times*.

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>.

FEDERAL OVERVIEW:

Legislation

The Senate passed the extension of the federal highway funding passed by the House on Thursday. **H.R.4281** extends current funds for road and transit projects until June 30th.

H.R.4245

Veterans Co-Pay Fairness Act

Introduced on 3/22/2012 by Representative Peter A. DeFazio (OR-4)

To amend title 38, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to reimburse eligible veterans who are entitled to Medicare benefits for Medicare deductibles and other expenses that are owed by the veterans for emergency medical treatment provided in non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities.

On 3/22/2012, referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.4246

VA Enrollment Act

Introduced on 3/22/2012 by Representative Peter A. DeFazio (OR-4)

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the expansion of eligibility for veteran reimbursement for emergency treatment provided in non-Department of Veterans Affairs facilities.

On 3/22/2012, referred to the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.4254

Medicare Advantage Program Integrity Act of 2012

Introduced on 3/22/2012 by Representative Fortney Pete Stark (CA-13)

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to enhance Medicare Advantage program integrity.

3/22/2012 referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

H.R.3626

LIHEAP Protection Act

Introduced on 12/8/2011 by Representative Chellie Pingree (ME-1)

LIHEAP Protection Act - Makes appropriations for FY2012 for the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

Expresses the sense of Congress that this Act should be implemented in a manner consistent with the Budget Control Act of 2011, and that the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) should:

- (1) continue and expedite efforts to identify best practices used by LIHEAP grant recipients;
- (2) provide training and technical assistance to such grant recipients;
- (3) recommend policy changes, and assess and mitigate risk at governmental levels in order to eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse; and
- (4) strengthen the Program so all funds reach the households who need them the most.

On 3/29/2012, referred to the House Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training.

Related bills: S.1961.

H.R.3749

Expanding Opportunities for Older Americans Act of 2011

Introduced on 12/20/2011 by Representative Laura Richardson (CA-37)

Expanding Opportunities for Older Americans Act of 2011 - Amends the Older Americans Act of 1965 to expand the Senior Community Service Employment (SCSE) Program.

Lowers the age of eligibility from 55 to 52.

Repeals the requirement that the eligible individual be unemployed.

Increases from 125% to 200% of the poverty line the maximum income for eligibility. Excludes from the counting of an eligible individual's income any income received by another member of the eligible individual's household.

Prohibits any limit of fewer than 40 hours per week on the number of hours per week a grant recipient may permit a participant to work in a job assisted under the grant.

Declares the sense of Congress that necessary sums should be appropriated to carry out the SCSE Program in each of FY2012-FY2017.

On 3/29/2012, referred to House Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training.

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

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>.

Federal Budget

This week, the **House** approved the Ryan Budget Plan:
<http://budget.house.gov/UploadedFiles/Pathtoprosperity2013.pdf>

Kaiser Health News' Daily Report summary of health policy coverage from more than 300 news organizations, about the plan:
http://www.kaiserhealthnews.org/Daily-Reports/2012/March/30/ryan-budget.aspx?utm_source=khn&utm_medium=internal&utm_campaign=widget

A Guide to the Supreme Court's Review of the 2010 Health Care Reform Law

In case you missed this last week, a link to the Kaiser Family Foundation brief is provided here:

<http://www.kff.org/healthreform/upload/8270-2.pdf>

Other News:

On March 28th, 14 Senators joined Senator Bernie Sanders during a Capitol Hill briefing in support of **reauthorization of the Older American Act**.

Sloan Center on Aging & Work at Boston College

Flex Strategies to Attract, Engage & Retain Older Workers - Executive Case Report:

http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/research/agingandwork/archive_pubs/flex_case.html

From the **Administration on Aging AoA News & Info**

2012 National Public Health Week focuses on prevention and wellness; the

APHA National Public Health Week webpage offers free resource materials at:
<http://www.nphw.org/>

The **Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS)** announced the availability of federal funding for the agency's RSVP program, part of Senior Corps. CNCS will award funds to new RSVP programs in the agency's six focus areas outlined in the CNCS's Strategic Plan: disaster services, economic opportunity, education, environmental stewardship, healthy futures, and veterans and military families. CNCS will invest in organizations in geographic areas where RSVP projects were voluntarily discontinued by the previous sponsor. The effected geographic service areas can be found in the Senior Corps Notice of Funding Opportunity. All applications must be submitted via egrants, CNCS's grants system at: <https://egrants.cns.gov/espan/main/login.jsp>

National Alzheimer's Project Act:

Information about the April 17 meeting of the Advisory Council is available at
<http://aspe.hhs.gov/daltcp/napa/#Apr2012Mtg>.

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

WHAT: Start Smart: Aging, Caregiving and Health by Georgia G. Hall, PhD, MPH

WHEN: Thursday, April 12, 7:30 to 8:30 am, University of Arizona, Building 4, Room 115, 714 E. Van Buren Street, Phoenix, AZ 85006

For more information or to register for this or other free lectures, go to:
<http://uacomphx-lectureseries.eventbrite.com/>

Information on the Arizona Direct Care Initiative: TRAIN-THE-TRAINER WORKSHOPS for Direct Care Worker Instructors

For more information:
<http://www.azgovernor.gov/GACA/Newsletter/2012/DCWAnnouncementForTrainTheTrainerWorkshops.pdf>

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, be sure to send 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.

Enjoy your weekend!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging