

Welcome to the Legislative Update for May 4, 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 during session 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 Ends

On Thursday evening, **the Legislature adjourned Sine Die** ending the 2nd regular session. This session lasted **116 days; 1395 bills** were **posted; 387 passed; 288** have been **signed** by the Governor thus far and **18 vetoed; 149** memorials **or resolutions were posted; 48 passed.**

For those remaining bills passed, the Governor has 10 days to sign, veto or allow them to go into law without signature.

Budget

Part of the last actions included the passing of the budget package. The bills include:

S1523: Budget; General Appropriations; FY2012-13

S1524: Budget; Capital Outlay; FY2012-13

S1525: Budget; Budget Procedures; FY2012-13

S1526: Budget; BRB; Revenue; FY2012-13

S1527: Budget: BRB: Government; FY2012-13

S1528: Budget: BRB: Health; Welfare; FY2012-13

S1529: Budget; BRB; K-12 Education; FY2012-13

S1530: Budget: BRB; Higher Education; FY2012-13

S1531: Budget BRB; Criminal Justice; FY2012-13

S1532: Budget; BRB; Environment; FY2012-13.

Summaries of each of these can be found as part of the bills listed in the **SHORT List** link provided here:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=24920&listid=45824&print=true>.

Thanks to advocacy and agreements reached, aging services funding avoided further cuts.

Legislation

Final action on some of the bills tracked by the Council on Aging is outlined below.

H2674: Central State Repository; Nonprofit Organization, Senate adopted conference report and passed on final reading 29-1; ready for the Governor.

House Summary: http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/summary/h.hb2674_05-01-12_astransmittedtogovernor.pdf

H2713: Insurance Premiums; Long-Term Care; Deduction, 5/1 House concurred in Senate amendments and passed on final reading 60-0; ready for the Governor.

House Summary: http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/summary/h.hb2713_04-20-12_astransmittedtogovernor.pdf

H2745: Retirement; ASRS: PSPRS: Amendments, 5/3 House concurred in Senate amendments and passed on final reading 56-0; ready for the Governor.

House Summary: http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/summary/h.hb2745_concurrusememo.pdf

H2815: Employment; Incentives; Regulatory Tax Credit, 5/3 Passed Senate 19-9; House concurred in Senate amendments and passed on final reading 39-16; ready for the Governor

S1036: Health Insurance; Eye Care Services, 5/3 passed House 56-0; Senate concurred in House amendments and passed on final reading 23-0; ready for the Governor.

Senate Fact Sheet: http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/summary/s.1036bi_housechanges.pdf

Also:

H2571: State Personnel System, 5/3 House concurred in Senate amendments and passed on final reading 38-18; ready for the Governor.

House Summary:

http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/2r/summary/h.hb2571_concurrusememo.pdf

Some of the bills tracked this session may be of interest to Arizona seniors 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 topic may be of interest to or have an impact on older Arizonans so the Council tracked the bill's progress.

Final 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 final status of the bills tracked by the Council on Aging. ***This list will remain posted until the start of the First Regular Session of the 51st Legislature or until any special session is called.*** 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, you may voice your thoughts **at any time** 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:

Follow up to **H.R. 4846**

Senior Financial Empowerment Act of 2012

Findings:

The Congress finds as follows:

(1) The proportion of the population of the United States age 60 years or older is predicted to drastically increase in the next 30 years as more than 76,000,000 Baby Boomers approach retirement and old age.

(2) It is estimated that between 500,000 and 5,000,000 seniors in the United States are abused, neglected, or exploited each year.

(3) Abuse, neglect, and exploitation of seniors crosses racial, social class, gender, and geographic lines.

(4) Each year millions of individuals in the United States are victims of financial exploitation, including mail, telemarketing, and Internet fraud. Many of those who fall prey to such exploitation are seniors.

(5) It is difficult to estimate the prevalence of fraud that targets seniors because cases are severely underreported and national statistics on senior fraud do not exist.

(6) The Federal Bureau of Investigation notes that seniors in the United States are less likely to report fraud because they do not know to whom to report, they are ashamed to have been a victim of fraud, or they do not know that they have been a victim of fraud. In some cases, a senior who has been a victim of fraud may not report the crime because he or she is concerned that relatives may conclude that the senior no longer has the mental capacity to take care of his or her own financial affairs.

(7) According to a 2009 report by the MetLife Mature Market Institute, the annual financial loss by victims of senior financial abuse is estimated to be at least \$2,600,000,000.

(8) Perpetrators of mail, telemarketing, and Internet fraud frequently target seniors because seniors are often vulnerable and trusting people.

(9) As victims of such fraudulent schemes, many seniors pay a financial cost, having been robbed of their hard-earned life savings, and frequently pay an emotional cost, losing their self-respect and dignity.

(10) Perpetrators of fraud targeting seniors often operate outside the United States, reaching their victims through the mail, telephone lines, and the Internet.

(11) The Deceptive Mail Prevention and Enforcement Act increased the power of the United States Postal Service to protect consumers against persons who use deceptive mailings, such as those featuring games of chance, sweepstakes, skill contests, and facsimile checks.

(12) During fiscal year 2007, Postal Inspection Service analysts prepared more than 27,000 letters and informative postcards in response to mail fraud complaints. During that same year, postal inspectors investigated 2,909 mail fraud cases in the United States and arrested 1,236 mail fraud suspects, of whom 1,118 were convicted. Postal inspectors also reported 162 telemarketing

fraud investigations, with 83 arrests and 61 convictions resulting from such investigations.

(13) In 2000, the United States Senate Special Committee on Aging reported that consumers lose approximately \$40,000,000,000 each year to telemarketing fraud, and estimated that approximately 10 percent of the Nation's 14,000 telemarketing firms were fraudulent. Some researchers estimate that only one in 10,000 fraud victims reports the crime to the authorities.

(14) A 2003 report by AARP found that, though the crime of telemarketing fraud is grossly underreported among seniors who have been victims of such fraud, seniors who are properly counseled by trained peer volunteers are less likely to fall victim to fraudulent practices.

(15) The Federal Bureau of Investigation reports that the threat of fraud to seniors is growing and changing. This is largely due to the fact that many younger Baby Boomers have considerable computer skills and criminals have responded by targeting seniors through online scams like phishing and email spamming, in addition to traditional telephone calls and mass mailings.

(16) The Internet Crime Complaint Center (hereinafter referred to in this paragraph as `IC3') is a partnership between the National White Collar Crime Center and the Federal Bureau of Investigation that serves as a vehicle to receive, develop, and refer criminal complaints regarding cybercrime. The IC3 processed more than 219,553 complaints of Internet crime in 2007. From these submissions, the IC3 referred 90,008 complaints of Internet crime, representing a total dollar loss of \$239,090,000, to Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies in the United States for further consideration.

(17) Consumer awareness is the best protection from fraud.

Centralized Service-

REQUIREMENT- The Federal Trade Commission, after consultation with the Attorney General, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Postmaster General, the Chief Postal Inspector for the United States Postal Inspection Service, and the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, shall—

- periodically disseminate to seniors, and families and caregivers of seniors, general information on mail, telemarketing, and Internet fraud targeting seniors, including descriptions of the most common fraud schemes;
- periodically disseminate to seniors, and families and caregivers of seniors, information on methods available to report fraud targeting seniors, such as--

(1) referring complaints to law enforcement agencies, including the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and State attorneys general; and

(2) calling a national toll-free telephone number established by the Federal Trade Commission for reporting mail, telemarketing, and Internet fraud;

- in response to a specific request by a party to the Federal Trade Commission inquiring about any history of fraud committed by a particular entity or individual, provide to such party any publically available information on any record of law enforcement action for fraud against such entity or individual--

(1) by the Federal Trade Commission; and

(2) by any other agency that reports such actions to the Federal Trade Commission; and

- maintain a Web site to serve as a resource for information for seniors, and families and caregivers of seniors, regarding mail, telemarketing, and Internet fraud targeting seniors.

PROCEDURES AND COMMENCEMENT- The Federal Trade Commission shall establish and implement procedures to carry out the requirements of paragraph (1), including procedures--

- with respect to the frequency and mode of dissemination of information under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of such paragraph;

- that provide for the implementation of the requirements of such paragraph not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Authorization of Appropriations- There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$10,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2013 through 2017.

Grant Program Authorized- Subject to the availability of funds authorized to be appropriated under this section, the Attorney General, after consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Postmaster General, the Chief Postal Inspector for the United States Postal Inspection Service, and the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, shall establish and administer a competitive grant program to award grants to eligible organizations to carry out mail, telemarketing, and Internet fraud prevention education programs for seniors.

- Eligible Organizations- The Attorney General may award grants under this section to State Attorneys General, State and local law enforcement agencies and groups, senior centers, and other local nonprofit organizations that provide assistance to seniors, as determined by the Attorney General.

- Authorization of Appropriations- There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$20,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2013 through 2017.

It is the sense of the Congress that--

- there is a need to increase public awareness of the enormous impact that mail, telemarketing, and Internet fraud have on senior citizens in the United States;

- a week should be designated as 'National Senior Fraud Awareness Week';

- the people of the United States should observe National Senior Fraud Awareness Week with appropriate educational activities; and
- the President is encouraged to issue a proclamation supporting increased public awareness of the impact of, and the need to prevent, fraud committed against seniors.

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>.

OTHER NEWS

May is Older Americans Month

To read the President's Proclamation, go to:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/05/01/presidential-proclamation-older-americans-month-2012>

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

National Women's Health Week May 13 – 19, 2012

<http://www.womenshealth.gov/whw/>

National High Blood Pressure Awareness & Stroke Awareness Month

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2012pres/05/20120502a.html>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - CDC

May is Asthma Awareness Month:

<http://www.cdc.gov/Features/AsthmaAwareness/>

Arthritis Awareness Month: <http://www.cdc.gov/Features/ArthritisAwareness/>

National Eye Institute, National Institutes of Health

Healthy Vision Month

<http://www.nei.nih.gov/hvm/>

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

May is Better Hearing and Speech Month

<http://www.asha.org/bhsm/>

WOW - Wider Opportunities for Women

Economic Insecurity and Elder Women:

<http://www.wowonline.org/documents/OlderAmericansGenderbriefFINAL.pdf>

EPA hot weather safety tips

Planning for Extreme Heat webpage:

<http://www.epa.gov/aging/resources/factsheets/itdhpfehe/index.htm>

Beat the Heat flyer:

http://www.epa.gov/aging/pdfs/resources/beat_the_heat_2005_1006.pdf

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

Updated News

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

WHEN: June 15, 2012, 8 am to 5:00 pm, Casino Del Sol Convention Center, 5655 W. Valencia Road, Tucson AZ 85757

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/GACA/Newsletter/2012/BHOAConfBrochure2012.pdf>

Mark your calendar for later this summer and fall

WHAT: Arizona Senior Center Association (ASCA) Annual Conference

WHEN: Monday, July 30th and Tuesday, July 31st, Prescott Resort.

For more information, visit the ASCA website: www.arizonaseniors.net

Did you know? **Senior Connections** (Prescott, AZ) offers a Speaker's Bureau; for more information, go to:

<http://www.seniorconnection.us/SpeakersBureau.html>

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.

Now that the 2nd Regular Session of the 50th Legislature has adjourned, it is our intent to offer our email news on a monthly basis.

Thank you! ~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

(We appreciate your patience with the newsletter's formatting issues.)

