

**Welcome to the Legislative Update for July 31, 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!

Between legislative sessions, it is our intent to offer our email news on a *monthly* basis.

**Fiscal News**

From the **Joint Legislative Budget Committee:**

The ***JLBC Monthly Fiscal Highlights July 2012 [report](#)*** and the ***[Tracking Arizona's Recovery July 2012](#)*** are posted at the Arizona State Legislature's website.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Voter Information and Resources**

The **Arizona Secretary of State [web page](#)**

The **Arizona Prosperity Project [webpage](#)**

**Approval of ballot language** is posted at:

**[http://www.azsos.gov/election/2012/General/2012\\_Ballot\\_Language\\_Approval.pdf](http://www.azsos.gov/election/2012/General/2012_Ballot_Language_Approval.pdf)**

The **Joint Legislative Budget Committee** report, ***Fiscal Impact Analysis of November 2012 Ballot Propositions*** is provided **[here](#)**.

\*\*\*\*\*

**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](#)** 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.

**District maps** are posted [here](#).

\*\*\*\*\*

## **FEDERAL OVERVIEW:**

### **H.R.5861**

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to establish a grant pilot program to provide housing to elderly homeless veterans.

Introduced on May 30, 2012 by Representative Bob Filner (CA-51)

A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to establish a grant pilot program to provide housing to elderly homeless veterans.

Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall jointly establish a pilot program to award grants to nonprofit organizations to provide homeless veterans with non-transitional housing.

Use of Grant

A nonprofit organization may use a grant awarded under this section to--

- purchase real property within a single geographical area to be used to provide up to 200 eligible homeless veterans with non-transitional housing; and
- refurbish or renovate such property.

## Eligible Homeless Veterans

A homeless veteran is eligible for housing provided pursuant to this section if the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determines that the homeless veteran--

- has been continuously homeless for a year or more; or during the last three years, had at least four separate, distinct, and sustained periods during which the veteran lived or resided on the streets, in an emergency shelter for homeless persons, or a combination of both;

- has a condition that limits the veteran's ability to work or perform activities of daily living, including conditions related to a diagnosable substance abuse disorder; a serious mental illness; a developmental disability; or

a chronic physical illness or disability; and

- has attained the age of 55.

On 7/11/2012, referred to the Subcommittee on Insurance, Housing and Community Opportunity.

### **H.R.5909**

#### **Comprehensive Dental Reform Act of 2012**

Introduced on 6/7/2012 by Representative Elijah E. Cummings (MD-7)

Comprehensive Dental Reform Act of 2012 - Amends titles XVIII (Medicare) and XIX (Medicaid) of the Social Security Act to cover dental services.

Increases the federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) for funding under Medicaid for dental services.

Directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to award grants to states and eligibility entities to develop certain case management programs that: (1) identify eligible individuals in need of dental services, with a particular focus on pregnant women, individuals with disabilities, and older adults, and provide them with information regarding dental providers in proximity to their residence; (2) recruit licensed providers and coordinate their voluntary provision of medically recommended dental services at no charge; (3) provide community-level oral health education; and (4) identify and coordinate transportation necessary to overcome mobility impairments and transportation barriers.

**Title II: Public Health Programs** - Amends the Public Health Service Act to establish, revise, and extend funding for grant programs for: (1) educating nondental medical and other professionals about oral health care;

(2) providing dental services in hospital emergency rooms or in community settings; (3) providing scholarships and education loans for dental therapists and oral health professional students; (4) providing comprehensive oral health services to low-income individuals and individuals in underserved areas; (5) building, operating, or expanding dental clinics in schools; (6) funding research by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to prevent and manage oral health diseases; and (7) providing rural health clinics with mobile and portable, comprehensive dental services and outreach for senior-care facilities and facilities that provide federal health care and nutrition benefits for women and children.

**Title III: Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense Matters** - Removes restrictions on the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) to provide dental care to veterans (thereby requiring such care on the same basis as other VA-provided medical care and services). Authorizes such Secretary to carry out a demonstration program to train and employ alternative dental health care providers (providers) in order to increase access to dental health care services (dental services) for veterans in rural and other underserved communities.

Authorizes the Secretary of Defense (DOD) to carry out a similar demonstration program to train and employ such providers in order to increase access to dental services for members of the Armed Forces and their dependents who lack ready access to such services.

**Title IV: Federal Bureau of Prisons** - Authorizes the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to carry out a demonstration program to establish programs to train and employ alternative dental health care providers to increase access to dental health services for prisoners within the custody of the Bureau of Prisons.

Allows dental services provided under the demonstration program to be administered by alternative dental health care providers and any other dental care providers who are licensed to provided clinical care, through telehealth-enabled collaboration and supervision.

**Title V: Indian Health Service** - Authorizes the Secretary of HHS, through the Indian Health Service, to carry out a demonstration program to establish programs to train and employ alternative dental health care providers to help eliminate oral health disparities and increase access to dental services through health programs operated by the Indian Health Service, Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and Urban Indian organizations.

Allows dental services provided under the demonstration program to be administered by alternative dental health care providers and any other dental care providers who are licensed to provided clinical care, through telehealth-enabled collaboration and supervision.

**Title VI: Reports to Congress** - Directs the Secretary of HHS, by October 1, 2016, to submit a report that provides a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis regarding the expansion of coverage for dental services pursuant

to this Act, including whether the provision of such services resulted in a reduction in total health care costs for individuals under the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

Directs the Comptroller General (GAO): (1) by October 1, 2015, to submit a report that provides a comprehensive analysis and evaluation of the implementation and utilization of the expanded coverage for dental services under this Act for individuals enrolled in Medicare and Medicaid, and (2) by October 1, 2016, to submit a report that provides a comprehensive analysis and evaluation of the demonstration programs authorized by this Act for the training and employment of alternative dental health care providers.

**Title VII: Funding** - Amends the Internal Revenue Code to impose an 0.025% excise tax on the purchase of a security: (1) if such purchase occurs on a trading facility located in the United States, or (2) the purchaser or seller is a U.S. person.

Defines "security" to include: (1) stocks, partnership interests, notes, bonds, debentures, or other evidences of indebtedness; and (2) interests in a derivative financial instrument (i.e., any option, forward contract, futures contract, notional principal contract, or any similar financial instrument).

Exempts from such tax: (1) initial issues of securities; (2) any note, bond, debenture, or other evidence of indebtedness which has a fixed maturity of not more than 100 days; and (3) securities traded pursuant to certain lending arrangements.

On 6/18/2012, referred to House Subcommittee on Health.

*Related bills:* **H.R.3313, S.1787, S.3272**

**H.R.5999**  
**Housing for Blinded Veterans Act**

Introduced on 6/21/2012 by Representative Bruce L. Braley, (IA-1)

A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide specially adapted housing assistance to blind veterans.

On 7/6/2012, referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity.

**H.R.6142**  
**Assuring Medicare Stability and Access for Seniors Act of 2012**

Introduced on 7/18/2012 by Representative Michael C. Burgess (TX-26)

A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend Medicare physician payment rates for 1 year.

On 7/18/2012, referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce and to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Update on previously reported legislation:

**S.1744**  
**Guardian Accountability and Senior Protection Act**

Introduced on 10/20/2011 by Senator Amy Klobuchar (MN)

Guardian Accountability and Senior Protection Act

Amends the Older Americans Act of 1965 to authorize the Assistant Secretary of Aging to make grants to and enter into contracts with states and other specified public and private recipients for: (1) assessing the fairness, effectiveness, timeliness, and accessibility of adult guardianship and conservatorship proceedings; (2) implementing necessary changes as a result of the assessments; and (3) collecting necessary data regarding those proceedings and the impact of the necessary changes.

Requires the Assistant Secretary of Aging to make grants to enable the highest court of a state to: (1) conduct its own assessments of the role, responsibilities, and effectiveness of state courts in carrying out state laws requiring proceedings with respect to guardianship and conservatorship; and (2) implement necessary changes in light of them.

Directs the Attorney General to establish a pilot program to identify efficient, effective, and economical procedures for state courts to conduct background checks on prospective guardians and conservators.

Authorizes the State Justice Institute to award grants to eligible highest state courts to assist in improving conservator monitoring efforts through electronic filing.

On 7/12/2012, placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 450.

ALSO: **U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations** press release of July 17, 2012 that includes a change in Administration on Aging funding is provided [here](#).

\*\*\*\*\*

**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](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 **Kaiser Health News Capsules The KHN Blog:**

**Report: Nation Isn't Ready to Meet Elderly Patients' Mental Health Care Needs**

<http://capsules.kaiserhealthnews.org/index.php/2012/07/report-nation-isn't-ready-to-meet-elderly-patients-mental-health-care-needs/>

\*\*\*\*\*

**Latest information on the *National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease* can be found [here](#).**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Social Security** articles are provided [here](#).

\*\*\*\*\*

**From *ACL News & Info* July 16, 2012 issue**

**Research and Demonstration Program to Improve Coordinated Transportation Systems for People with Disabilities and Older Adults**

The goal of this 5 year project is to identify proven models and approaches that can be used by states and communities across the country to empower people with disabilities and older adults to be actively involved in the design and implementation of coordinated transportation systems in ways that successfully make those systems responsive to the needs of these populations. Applicants seeking funding under this announcement may find it helpful to subcontract out some of the activities undertaken to implement this project to one or more national organizations with a successful track record and demonstrated experience in empowering people with disabilities and older adults to improve systems, such as making transportation systems responsive to meet the needs of people with disabilities and older adults.

The application deadline is August 14, 2012.

To learn more about this funding opportunity and to download the application, go to [http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Grants/Funding/docs/2012/FY2012Transportation\\_FOA.pdf](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Grants/Funding/docs/2012/FY2012Transportation_FOA.pdf) or [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov). The Funding Opportunity Number: HHS-2012-ACL-TC-1216.

\*\*\*\*\*

From the **National Council on Aging**

**8 Myths about Reverse Mortgages** is linked [here](#).

**Flu + You** information is provided [here](#).

\*\*\*\*\*

From the **U.S. Census Bureau**

**Older Populations to Exceed Children in Most World Regions by 2050, Census Bureau Reports** is found [here](#).

**July 25, 2012 Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act**

\*\*\*\*\*

**AARP Public Policy Institute *Assessing Family Caregiver Needs: Policy & Practice Considerations*** can be found [here](#).

\*\*\*\*\*

Report from the **Milken Institute:**

[Best Cities for Successful Aging](#)

\*\*\*\*\*

**INFORMATION & RESOURCES:**

**Tomorrow, August 1<sup>st</sup>** marks the launch of the **Caregiver Resource Line (CRL)**. More information is provided [here](#).

\*\*\*\*\*

**WHAT: Veteran's Mental Health Project**, Continuing education for providing care to service members, veterans & their families

**WHEN: Wednesday, August 29, 2012**, 0900 - 1600 (9:00 am to 4:00 pm)

Windemere Hotel, Sierra Vista, AZ

More information is provided at <http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/2012/MilVetTrainingSierraVista.pdf>.

\*\*\*\*\*

**WHAT: Veterans with Hearing Loss - Workshop**; hosted by Arizona Commission for the Deaf and the Hard of Hearing

**WHEN: September 4, 2012; 0900 - 1145 Hours**, 100 N. 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 104, Phoenix, AZ 85007

For more information, go to: <http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/2012/HearingLossVeteransFlyerInviteProposalFinal.pdf>

\*\*\*\*\*

**WHAT: NACOG Area Agency on Aging 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Elder Issues Conference *Creating Caring Communities: Hope for the Challenges Ahead***

**WHEN: October 4, 2012, High Country Conference Center, Flagstaff AZ**

More information is provided [here](#).

\*\*\*\*\*

**WHAT: 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of The National Adult Protective Services Association *Ending Adult Abuse: On the Horizon?* Elder Financial Exploitation Summit**

**WHEN: Conference - October 16 - 18; Summit - October 19<sup>th</sup>, Pointe Hilton Squaw Peak Resort, Phoenix, Arizona**

More information is provided [here](#).

\*\*\*\*\*

**From *The Senior Connection*** (Prescott, Arizona)

WHAT: WHAT IS A FIDUCIARY & WHY WOULD I NEED ONE?

WHEN: Thursday, August 9, 10 to 11 a.m., American Lutheran Church, 1085 Scott Drive, Prescott. (The presentation is free and open to the public. RSVPs appreciated but not required.)

For more information, contact Debbie Stewart at [Debbie@SeniorConnection.us](mailto:Debbie@SeniorConnection.us) or (928) 778-3747

View the July 2012 issue of *The Caregiver Connection* [here](#).

\*\*\*\*\*

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](mailto:gaca@az.gov). Please note: we try to include events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service advocates.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Enjoy the remaining days of summer!**

**~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging**