

Welcome to the Legislative Update for March 29, 2013

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!

First Regular Session of the 51st Legislature

Since the last issue, 850 floor actions filed; at least 93 of those related to legislation tracked by the Council on Aging. (See **FULL LIST** link)

As of day 75 of the session, 1,145 bills posted, 44 passed and 24 signed.

Fiscal News

While no budget negotiations information available to share, here is the latest fiscal report from the Joint Legislative Budget Committee. **JLBC Monthly Fiscal Highlights March 2013** reports "Year-to-date, revenues are 4.4% higher than last year and are \$15.7 million above the Baseline forecast." A link to the report is provided at: <http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/mfh-mar-13.pdf>.

3/14/2013 JLBC Staff Presentations to the Appropriations Committees report is linked [here](#).

Resources

All committee agendas (House, Senate, Joint Legislative Budget Committee or JLBC) are posted at this [link](#). All Floor Calendars are linked [here](#). Standing Committees and their members are listed at this [link](#).

Check the Senate and House daily posting sheets regarding actions taken posted at: <http://www.azleg.gov/PostingSheets.asp>.

2013 Session Timeline

Last Friday, March 22nd was the last day to hear Senate Bills in House Committees and the last day to hear House Bills in Senate Committees.

The next deadline is **April 19th** - the last day for Conference Committees.

Legislation

Legislative action and hearings taking place on *some* of the bills tracked by the Council on Aging are outlined here with fact sheets or summaries from the Arizona State Legislature, when available. Note: you can view summaries

provided by *Arizona Capitol Reports-LOLA* on the FULL and SHORT LIST reports provided at the links later in this issue.

HCR2035: recognizing Arizona caregivers, 3/14, unanimously adopted by both House and Senate; to Secretary of State; House Engrossed Fact Sheet: <http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/51leg/1r/bills/hcr2035h.pdf>

H2407: qualified immunity; nonprofit clinics, from Senate Rules Committee, okay, 3/5 Senate Fact Sheet: <http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/51leg/1r/summary/s.2407%20hhs-jud.pdf>

S1175: vulnerable adult; duty, 3/25 passed House 58-0; ready for Senate action on House amendment, House Engrossed Fact Sheet: http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/51leg/1r/summary/h.sb1175_03-21-13_houseengrossed.pdf

S1286: nursing facility provider assessments, 3/27 passed House 58-0; ready for Governor, House Engrossed Fact Sheet: http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/51leg/1r/summary/h.sb1286_03-26-13_houseengrossed.pdf

S1341: vulnerable adults; financial exploitation, 3/28 from House Committee of the Whole (COW) with amendment, House Engrossed Fact Sheet: http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/51leg/1r/summary/h.sb1341_03-28-13_houseengrossed.pdf

S1353: health insurance; telemedicine, passed House 58-0; ready for Senate action on House amendments, House Engrossed Fact Sheet: http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/51leg/1r/summary/h.sb1353_03-21-13_houseengrossed.pdf

Hearings next week:

H2076: military applicants; licensure requirements, 4/1 Senate Consent, Senate Fact Sheet: <http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/51leg/1r/summary/s.2076cem-trans.pdf>

Signed by the Governor on 3/28

H2147: unemployment benefits; proof; eligibility

Senate Engrossed version: <http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/51leg/1r/bills/hb2147s.pdf>

REMINDER: Bill summaries, actions, hearings and other information are provided on all the legislation tracked by the Council this session at the **FULL** and **SHORT LIST** links provided below.

Day 75:

1,145 bills posted, 44 bills passed; 24 bills signed; 71 memorials or resolutions posted and 7 passed. Some of these bills may be of interest to Arizona seniors and are being tracked by the Council and appear on the **Legislative Update** web report pages.

Our **FULL LIST** includes all bills originally placed on the tracking list; the **SHORT LIST** of bills is provided for quick reference on legislation moving forward.

Please be advised that the presence of a bill on the Council's tracking lists does not represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill. It **does** mean that the bill 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=24960&listid=47124&print=true>

SHORT LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=25113&listid=48764&print=true>

Important to note: The **web reports above** provide you with the current status and upcoming hearing information about bills being tracked by the Council and **are available and updated on an ongoing basis, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.** These lists will continue to be edited as the **session progresses.** Information about bill status, hearing, etc. is a purchased service provided by the **Arizona Capitol Times.**

Both the Senate and the House are adjourned at this time until 1:30 p.m. on Monday, April 1st. (No April Fool's joke!)

If you want to learn more about the legislative process, see [Arizona Bill](#) and **From Idea To Bill To Law, The Legislative Process in Arizona** linked [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 **contacting your legislator from your area**...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** can be found [here](#).

FEDERAL OVERVIEW:

Updates to the last issue

H.R.933

Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2013

Became Public Law No: 113-6

S.562

Seniors Mental Health Access Improvement Act of 2013

Purpose:

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security act to provide for the coverage of marriage and family therapist services and mental health counselor services under part B of the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

H.R.803

SKILLS Act

Introduced on 2/25/2013 by Representative Virginia Foxx (NC-5), the bill has 23 cosponsors.

Supporting Knowledge and Investing in Lifelong Skills Act or SKILLS Act – Amends the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA) to revise requirements and reauthorize appropriations for:

- (1) WIA title I, workforce investment systems for job training and employment services; and
- (2) WIA title II, adult education and family literacy education programs.

Revises requirements to:

- (1) eliminate representatives of labor organizations from state workforce investment boards, and
- (2) specify that representatives of business on a board represent large and small businesses with immediate and long-term employment opportunities in in-demand industries and other occupations important to the state economy.

Requires a state board to assist the state governor by developing:

(1) policies and programs that support a comprehensive statewide workforce development system, and

(2) a statewide workforce and labor market information system.

Revises requirements for:

(1) a state workforce development plan;

(2) local workforce investment areas, boards, and plans;

(3) one-stop delivery systems; and

(4) the allotment of federal funds among states for employment and training activities.

Eliminates specific funding for adult and dislocated worker employment and training. Specifies state use of federal funds to set up a Workforce Investment Fund.

Revises requirements for:

(1) within state allocations of funds; and

(2) the use of funds for state and local employment and training activities, including statewide rapid response, individuals with barriers to employment grants, and adults with barriers to employment grants.

Converts the national emergency grants program into a national dislocated worker grants program. Authorizes the Secretary of Labor to award national dislocated worker grants to spouses of active duty members of the Armed Forces or full-time duty members of the National Guard (or members who recently separated from such duties) and are in need of employment and training assistance to obtain or retain employment.

Requires the Employment and Training Administration of the Department of Labor to be the principal agency to administer WIA title I workforce investment systems for job training and employment services and title III (Job Corps).

Revises requirements for the state unified plan for adult education and literacy programs.

Amends the Wagner-Peyser Act to eliminate the U.S. Employment Service. Replaces the

nationwide employment statistics system, which the Secretary is required to oversee, with a nationwide workforce and labor market information system.

Repeals the Youth Conservation Corps Act of 1970 and specified other laws.

Amends the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to require employment and training services to eligible members of households participating in the supplemental nutrition assistance program be provided through the statewide workforce development system, including the One-Stop delivery system.

Amends the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) with respect to employment and training services for refugees, and the Second Chance Act of 2007 and well as the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 with respect to such services through the statewide workforce investment system for federal, state, and local prisoner reentry programs.

Amends INA also to require that 15% of importing employer fees deposited into the H-1B Nonimmigrant Petitioner Account be transferred to the Department of Education for gifted and talented grant programs (instead of 50% to job training programs).

Amends the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (RA73) to:

(1) redesignate the Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration the Director, and (2) require an eligible state to use a certain percentage of the federal share of the cost of vocational rehabilitation services to award grants to create practical job and career readiness and training programs and provide job placements and career advancement.

Repeals the authority of the Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration in the Department of Education to make grants and contracts for: (1) vocational rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities who are migrant or seasonal farmworkers; (2) recreational programs for such individuals; and (3) in-service training of vocational rehabilitation personnel.

Repeals title VI (Employment Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities) of the RA73.

Revises requirements and reauthorizes appropriations for vocational rehabilitation services under the RA73.

On 3/18/2013, the bill was received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Related bills: **H.RES.113**

S.AMDT.594 amends S.CON.RES.8

Sponsor: Senator Bernard Sanders (VT) submitted 3/22/2013, proposed 3/23/2013.

AMENDMENT PURPOSE:

To establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the Older Americans Act of 1965, which may include congregate and home-delivered meals programs, or other assistance to low-income seniors.

3/23/2013 Senate amendment agreed to. Status: Amendment SA 594 agreed to in Senate by Unanimous Consent.

H.R.1286

Healthy Families Act

Introduced on 3/20/13 by Representative Rosa L. DeLauro (CT-3), the bill has 94 cosponsors.

The purposes of this Act

- (1) to ensure that all working Americans can address their own health needs and the health needs of their families by requiring employers to permit employees to earn up to 56 hours of paid sick time including paid time for family care;
- (2) to diminish public and private health care costs by enabling workers to seek early and routine medical care for themselves and their family members;
- (3) to assist employees who are, or whose family members are, victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking, by providing the employees with paid time away from work to allow the victims to receive treatment and to take the necessary steps to ensure their protection;
- (4) to address the historical and persistent widespread pattern of employment discrimination on the basis of gender by both private and public sector employers;
- (5) to accomplish the purposes described in paragraphs (1) through (4) in a manner that is feasible for employers; and
- (6) consistent with the provision of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution relating to equal protection of the laws, and pursuant to Congress' power to enforce that provision under section 5 of that Amendment--
 - (A) to accomplish the purposes described in paragraphs (1) through (4) in a manner that minimizes the potential for employment discrimination on the basis of sex by ensuring generally that paid sick time is available for eligible medical reasons on a gender-neutral basis; and
 - (B) to promote the goal of equal employment opportunity for women and men.

On 3/20/2013, H.R.1286 was referred to the House Committee on Education and Workforce, House Administration, and House Oversight and Government Reform.

Related bill: **S.631**

NOTE: The Senate convenes again on April 8th and the House on April 9th.

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*.

Another resource

Congress.gov United States Legislative Information:
<http://beta.congress.gov/>

Share your opinions with members of Congress!

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 are provided below.

[House](#) members

[Senate](#) members

You can contact the White House at this [link](#).

A compilation of contact information is provided at:
<http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml>.

OTHER NEWS

Connecting to Combat Alzheimer's brings together **National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded Alzheimer's Disease Centers (ADCs)** that conduct research with the **Administration for Community Living (ACL)** aging services agencies. For more information, go to:
<http://www.hhs.gov/open/initiatives/hsinnovates/round6/connecting-to-combat-alzheimers.html>.

National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease

The latest information is posted at this [link](#). (Be sure to scroll up the page for current information.)

The **Alzheimer's Association's 2013 Alzheimer's Disease Facts & Figures** report was released last week and is provided at:
http://www.alz.org/downloads/facts_figures_2013.pdf.

May is Older Americans Month and ***Unleash the Power of Age*** is the theme of this 50th year celebration. Resources and information provided at this [link](#).

From the ***ACL News & Info Monday, March 25, 2013***

PHI's State Data Center on the LTC Direct Care Workforce

"The online Center provides up-to-date state-level profiles of the direct-care workforce, including workers from service delivery systems for individuals of all ages with physical, developmental or intellectual disabilities, and with chronic illnesses and end-of-life care needs."

The PHI State Data Center is linked [here](#).

From the **Recent Reports** section of the March 25th issue:

[Medicaid Managed Care for People with Disabilities](#)

Source: National Council on Disabilities

Date: March 2013

[Economic Security Initiative Demonstration: Lessons Learned](#)

Source: National Council on Aging

Date: March 2013

[The HCBS Opportunity: Recommendations for the Commission on Long-Term Care](#)

Source: National Senior Citizens Law Center

Date: March 2013

[State Studies Find Home and Community-Based Services to Be Cost-Effective](#)

Source: AARP Public Policy Institute

Date: March 2013

[A Behavioral Weight-Loss Intervention in Persons with Serious Mental Illness](#)

Source: The New England Journal of Medicine

Date: March 21, 2013

[2013 County Health Rankings](#)

Source: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Date: March 20, 2013

[Overview of Current Long-Term Care Financing Options](#)

Source: The Scan Foundation

Date: March 20, 2013

[The Weinberg Caregiver Initiative](#)

Source: Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation

Date: March 2013

Report from the **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Urban Institute**

Uninsured Veterans and Family Members: State and National Estimates of Expanded Medicaid Eligibility Under the ACA is provided at:

http://www.rwjf.org/content/dam/farm/reports/issue_briefs/2013/rwjf405143 and **Governor Brewer's** press release related to the report is linked **[here](#)**.

Mark your calendar for the next **National Take-Back Initiative**

April 27, 2013; more information to be posted at the **[DEA website](#)**.

National Center on Senior Transportation *information and resources are posted at:*

http://seniortransportation.easterseals.com/site/PageServer?pagename=NCST2_homepage.

NOTE: Be sure to see the survey at the top right corner of the homepage. NCST is asking for input on your information, technical assistance and training needs related to enhancing senior mobility/transportation services.

The Federal Trade Commission released the Top 10 Complaint Categories for 2012 and **Identity Theft Tops List for 13th Consecutive Year in Report of National Consumer Complaints**. See the list [here](#).

April 15th is the application deadline for the **2013-2014 Class of Health and Aging Policy Fellows**. For more information, go to:

<http://www.healthandagingpolicy.org/>.

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

WHAT: Grant Writing Workshop sponsored by Northern Arizona Council of Governments

WHEN: Monday, April 8, 2013, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Cottonwood Recreation Center, 150 S. 6th St., Cottonwood, AZ

For more information, see this [link](#).

WHAT: A.T. Still University 9th Annual Lecture on Aging *Creativity: The Critical Link in Person-Centered Care*

WHEN: Friday, April 12, 2013, Arizona Campus, Saguaro A & B at 12:00 noon.

For more information, see this [link](#) or call 480-219-6077.

WHAT: Arizona Geriatrics Society 6th Annual Spring Geriatric Mental Health & Aging Conference

WHEN: Wednesday, April 17th, Black Canyon Conference Center, 9440 N. 25th Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona and **Wednesday, April 24th**, YWCA Leadership Center, 525 N. Bonita Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85745

More information is provided [here](#).

WHAT: Arizona Transit Association's Annual Conference

WHEN: April 21 - 23, 2013, Tempe Buttes Marriott, Tempe AZ

For more information and to register, see this [link](#).

WHAT: 2nd Annual Arizona Elder Law Day

WHEN: Wednesday, May 1, 2013, 9 am to 3 pm, Glencroft Retirement Community, 8611 N. 67th Avenue, Glendale, Arizona 85302

More information is provided [here](#).

WHAT: Time Out Workshop "Religious Perspectives on Death, Dying, and the After Life"

WHEN: May 14, 2013, 8 am to 12:30 pm, Disability Empowerment Center, 5025 E. Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ

More information is available [here](#).

Also: **Save the Date; Greater Phoenix Region Aging in Place Network Conference *Connecting Care Communities* event, May 14, 2013**, Black Canyon Conference Center, 9440 N. 25th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ. More information available later.

WHAT: Save the Date; 2013 World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

WHEN: Friday, June 14, 2013

Save the Date flyer provided [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.

Please note: we try to include events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service advocates.

Have a good weekend!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging