

## Welcome to the Legislative Update for April 5, 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 51<sup>st</sup> Legislature

Legislative actions have slowed. Since last Friday, 176 floor actions filed; 18 of those related to legislation tracked by the Council on Aging.

As of the 82<sup>nd</sup> day of the session, no FY 2014 budget legislation available to share.

### 2013 Session Timeline

The next deadline is **April 19<sup>th</sup>** - the last day for Conference Committees, and **April 23<sup>rd</sup>** marks the **100<sup>th</sup>** day of the session, the date for sine die adjournment unless leadership extends the deadline.

### 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>.

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### Legislation

Legislative and administrative actions 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 LIST** and **SHORT LIST** reports provided at the links later in this issue.

### Recently signed by the Governor

#### **H2064: training permits; military health professionals**

House Summary 4/1/2013:

[http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/51leg/1r/summary/h.hb2064\\_04-01-13\\_astransmittedtogovernor.pdf](http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/51leg/1r/summary/h.hb2064_04-01-13_astransmittedtogovernor.pdf)

**H2355: license fees; working dogs; waiver**

House Summary 4/3/2013:

[http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/51leg/1r/summary/h.hb2355\\_04-03-13\\_astransmittedtogovernor.pdf](http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/51leg/1r/summary/h.hb2355_04-03-13_astransmittedtogovernor.pdf)

**H2401: service animal; definition**

House Summary 4/4/2013:

[http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/51leg/1r/summary/h.hb2401\\_04-03-13\\_astransmittedtogovernor.pdf](http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/51leg/1r/summary/h.hb2401_04-03-13_astransmittedtogovernor.pdf)

**S1102: hearing aid dispensers; audiologist**

House Summary 4/1/2013:

[http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/51leg/1r/summary/h.sb1102\\_04-01-13\\_astransmittedtogovernor.pdf](http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/51leg/1r/summary/h.sb1102_04-01-13_astransmittedtogovernor.pdf)

**S1175: vulnerable adult; duty**

House Summary 4/4/2013:

[http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/51leg/1r/summary/h.sb1175\\_04-04-13\\_astransmitted.pdf](http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/51leg/1r/summary/h.sb1175_04-04-13_astransmitted.pdf)

**S1237: guardianships; conservatorships; transfer**

House Summary 4/1/2013:

[http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/51leg/1r/summary/h.sb1237\\_04-02-13\\_astransmittedtogovernor.pdf](http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/51leg/1r/summary/h.sb1237_04-02-13_astransmittedtogovernor.pdf)

**S1286: nursing facility provider assessments**

House Summary 4/1/2013:

[http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/51leg/1r/summary/h.sb1286\\_03-28-2013\\_astransmittedtogovernor.pdf](http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/51leg/1r/summary/h.sb1286_03-28-2013_astransmittedtogovernor.pdf)

**S1353: health insurance; telemedicine**, Senate concurred in House amendments and passed on final reading 28-0

Senate Fact Sheet:

[http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/51leg/1r/summary/s.1353hhs\\_housechanges.pdf](http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/51leg/1r/summary/s.1353hhs_housechanges.pdf)

**Passed and forwarded to the Governor**

**S1115: direct pay prices; health care**

Senate Summary 4/1/2013:

[http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/51leg/1r/summary/s.1115hhs\\_astypepassed.pdf](http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/51leg/1r/summary/s.1115hhs_astypepassed.pdf)

**Hearings next week**

**H2205: TANF; electronic benefit transfer prohibitions,**

4/8 Senate Committee of the Whole COW

**S1437: music therapists; licensure,** 4/8 House Committee of the Whole COW

Senate Fact Sheet 4/1/2013:

[http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/51leg/1r/summary/s.1437hhs-approp\\_aspassed.pdf](http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/51leg/1r/summary/s.1437hhs-approp_aspassed.pdf)

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

**Day 82:**

**1,145 bills posted, 88 bills passed; 70 bills signed; 1 vetoed; 71 memorials or resolutions posted and 9 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** link below includes all bills originally placed on the tracking list; the **SHORT LIST** link of bills is provided for quick reference on legislation that is 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. This list 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 Monday, April 8th.

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](#).

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***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 on the website linked [here](#).

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#### **FEDERAL OVERVIEW:**

**NOTE: The U.S. Senate and House of Representatives convene this week.**

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#### **S.567**

#### **Strengthening Social Security Act of 2013**

Introduced on 3/14/2013 by Senator Tom Harkin (IA)

To improve the retirement security of American families by strengthening Social Security

S.567 includes:

Determination of taxable wages and self-employment income above contribution and benefit base after 2013

Adjustments to bend points in determining primary insurance amount and inclusion of surplus earnings for benefit determinations

Consumer price index for elderly consumers

Computation of cost-of-living increases for social security benefits

On 3/14/2013, the bill was referred to Senate Committee on Finance.

**S.612**

**Social Security Number Protection Act of 2011**

Introduced on 3/19/2013 by Senator Richard Durbin (IL)

To require Secretary of Health and Human Services to remove social security account numbers from Medicare identification cards and communications provided to Medicare beneficiaries in order to protect Medicare beneficiaries from identity theft.

On 3/19/2013, the bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.

Note: With no resolution to the across the board sequester cuts, programs providing community based services for seniors are beginning to see the impact of the sequestration. ***The Administration for Community Living Estimates of Sequester Impact for State Formula Grant Programs Under the Older Americans Act*** is provided again [here](#) for your review.

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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 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

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

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

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**OTHER NEWS**

**IRS** reminds taxpayers to avoid tax scams; for more information, go to: <http://www.irs.gov/uac/Newsroom/IRS-Releases-the-Dirty-Dozen-Tax-Scams-for-2013>

From the **National Council on Aging – NCOA**

**6 Tax-Time Tips for Seniors** linked [here](#).

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**Issue brief** (published by the **NTAR Leadership Center**, funded by a grant/contract from the **U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Disability Employment Policy**)

***The Aging Workforce: The Role of Medical Professionals in Helping Older Workers and Workers with Disabilities to Stay at Work or Return to Work and Remain Employed*** is linked [here](#).

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**U.S. National Library of Medicine NIH National Institutes of Health**

***Medline Plus Trusted Health Information for You*** resource webpage is linked [here](#).

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**U.S. Department of Health & Human Services HHS** finalized the rule regarding new Medicaid beneficiaries. The press release is provided [here](#).

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***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.)

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**National Institutes of Health**

Press release: ***NIH-supported study finds U.S. dementia care costs as high as \$215 billion in 2010; Formal and unpaid dementia care costs are tallied*** is linked [here](#).

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From **AARP Public Policy Institute**

**Two-Thirds of States Integrating Medicare and Medicaid Services for Dual Eligibles** report is linked [here](#).

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**National Council on Aging - NCOA**  
[Top 10 Money Saving Tips for Seniors](#)

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

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From **ACL News & Info Monday, April 1, 2013**

[2013 Retirement Confidence Survey: Perceived Savings Needs Outpace Reality for Many](#)

Source: Employee Benefit Research Institute

Date: March 2013

**National Volunteer Week (April 21-28)**

Theme: "Celebrate Service"

Resources: [Aging Network Volunteer Collaborative](#); [Points of Light](#)

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

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

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**INFORMATION & RESOURCES:**

From the **April 2013 Community Connect** [newsletter](#)

**CommunityCalendar**

**April 20<sup>th</sup>** is **HopeFest Phoenix** at Chase Field. More than 140 community and government agencies will provide services to low-income individuals and families. All the details are found at [www.cityserveaz.com](http://www.cityserveaz.com).

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**WHAT: A.T. Still University 9<sup>th</sup> 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

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**WHAT: 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Arizona Elder Law Day**

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

More information is provided [here](#).

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**WHAT: Arizona Alzheimer's Consortium Public Conference**

**WHEN: Friday, May 24, 2013**, 8 am to 12:00 noon, Rio Vista Recreation Center, 8866 W. Thunderbird Road, Peoria, AZ 85381

To register, go to: <http://www.azalz.org/Events/The-2013-Arizona-Alzheimers-Public.aspx>.

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

**WHEN: Friday, June 14, 2013**

Save the Date flyer provided [here](#).

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**Resources in Yavapai County** listed in the current issue of *By the Seat of Our Pants* - Stewart Communications

CONFIDENT LIVING WITH VISION LOSS is a free, community-based education series for adults. All classes occur on Thursdays from 10 a.m. - noon. Class 1, April 4 - Understanding Medical Conditions of the Eye & Current Research and Treatment. Class 2, April 11 - Overview of the Emotional Impact of Vision Loss & Making Decisions With Life Changes. Class 3, April 18 - Assistive Devices to Maximize Independence. Class 4, April 25 - Orientation and Mobility & Guide Dogs of the Desert. Class 5, May 2 - Low Vision Optometry and Low Vision Aids & Talking Book Library. Class 6, May 9 - Diet and Your Vision & The Function of Vitamins. This free series is sponsored by People Who Care with support from the Quad-City Lions Clubs. All Classes will be held in the Douglas Room at the Prescott United Methodist Church, 505 W. Gurley Street, Prescott 86301.

Registration is required & seating is limited: call People Who Care at 445-2480. If you no longer drive and need help with getting to the location, call People Who Care.

U.S.VETS-Prescott provides housing and supportive services to homeless and at-risk veterans. They are proud to announce an expansion to their permanent housing program, which includes eight 1-bedroom apartments for single veterans and three 2-bedroom apartments for veteran families. They are now accepting applications for these units. Rent based on 30% of household income. If interested, call Joe Gatens at (928) 445-4860 ext. 5906.

ALSO: Caregiver resources can be found in the *Caregiver Connection* found at this [link](#).

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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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**Note: look for the next issue to be emailed the week of April 19th. Have a good weekend!**

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