

## Welcome to the Legislative Update for May 17, 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

On Wednesday, budget bills S1483 through S1492 were introduced in the Senate. Last evening, the budget, which includes a plan to expand Medicaid coverage, was approved and now goes to the House.

Note: the budget bills have been added to the **SHORT LIST** of legislation tracked by the Council and linked in this newsletter. Bill summaries and actions taken are posted on the list.

### Fiscal News

From the **Joint Legislative Budget Committee**

#### ***Senate Budget Proposal As Introduced***

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/senateproposalasintroduced051413.pdf>

Also:

#### ***Tracking Arizona's Recovery May 2013***

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/TrackingAZRecovery0513.pdf>

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### Legislation

Legislative and administrative actions taking place on *any remaining bills* tracked by the Council on Aging are outlined below 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 report links provided in this issue.)

### Signed by the Governor

#### **S1341 vulnerable adults**

Senate Fact Sheet 5/9

[http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/51leg/1r/summary/s.1341jud\\_as%20enacted.pdf](http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/51leg/1r/summary/s.1341jud_as%20enacted.pdf)

**S1433 optometry board**

House Summary 4/22

[http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/51leg/1r/summary/h.sb1433\\_04-22-13\\_astransmittedtogovernor.pdf](http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/51leg/1r/summary/h.sb1433_04-22-13_astransmittedtogovernor.pdf)

**H2513: dentistry**

Chaptered version

<http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/51leg/1r/laws/0150.pdf>

**Passed and awaiting signature**

**H2045: health care; direct pay; ahcccs rates**

House Summary 5/14

[http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/51leg/1r/summary/h.hb2045\\_cc\\_memo.pdf](http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/51leg/1r/summary/h.hb2045_cc_memo.pdf)

**H2265: community colleges; stem funding**

House Engrossed Version

<http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/51leg/1r/bills/hb2265h.pdf>

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**Day 124:**

**1,158 bills posted, 230 bills passed; 201 bills signed; 12 vetoed; 75 memorials or resolutions posted and 18 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 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 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 posted and edited until the end of the session.* 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 Tuesday, May 21, 2013.

If you want to learn more about the legislative process, see [Arizona Bill](#) or *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.
- **Not sure about your district? District maps** can be found on the website linked [here](#).

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**FEDERAL OVERVIEW:**

**Update on H.R.11**

**Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013**

Introduced on 1/22/2013 by Representative Gwen Moore (WI-4)  
Amends VAWA to authorize appropriations through FY2018 for the grant program to end elder abuse, including domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, exploitation, and neglect, and to provide training for law enforcement agencies to better serve victims of abuse in later life. Directs

the Attorney General in awarding grants to end elder abuse to give priority to proposals for serving culturally specific and underserved populations.

On 4/23/2013, the bill was referred to the House Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training.

### **Update on H.R.1585**

To require the establishment of a Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers to compute cost-of-living increases for Social Security benefits under title II of the Social Security Act and to provide, in the case of elderly beneficiaries under such title, for an annual cost-of-living increase which is not less than 3 percent.

On 4/16/2013, it was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

### **H.R.1502**

#### **Social Security Disability Insurance and Unemployment Benefits Double Dip Elimination Act**

Introduced on 4/11/2013 by Representative Sam Johnson (TX-3)

Security Disability Insurance and Unemployment Benefits Double Dip Elimination Act

Amends title II (Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance) (OASDI) of the Social Security Act to declare that for any month that an individual is entitled to unemployment compensation he or she shall be deemed to have engaged in substantial gainful activity and so be disqualified from receiving Social Security disability benefits after a certain period has elapsed.

States that, for purposes of determining services rendered by an individual during a period of trial work which will not disqualify the individual for disability benefits, the individual shall be deemed to have rendered services in a month if he or she is entitled to unemployment compensation or trade adjustment assistance for that month.

On 4/11/2013, H.R.1502 was referred to House Committee on Ways and Means.

### **H.R.1517**

#### **Social Security and Medicare Lock-Box Act**

Introduced on 4/11/2013 by Representative Tim Walberg (MI-7)

Amends title II (Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance) (OASDI) of the Social Security Act to establish in the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund a Social Security Surplus Protection Account to hold the Social Security surplus for the fiscal year of the sum of Social Security taxes collected, as well as the aggregate increase in certain tax liabilities, over the sum of benefits paid.

Establishes in the Federal Hospital Trust Fund a Medicare Surplus Protection Account to hold amounts equivalent to the Medicare part A surplus for the fiscal year of the sum of hospital insurance taxes collected over the sum of Medicare part A benefits paid.

Denies the availability of the balance in either Account for investment by the Managing Trustee.

Establishes in the executive branch a Social Security and Medicare Part A Investment Commission to study the most effective vehicles for investment of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund (other than investment in the form of U.S. obligations resulting in the transfer of Trust Fund assets to the general fund of the Treasury).

On 4/11/2013, the bill was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

#### **H.R.1742**

#### **Vulnerable Veterans Housing Reform Act of 2013**

Introduced on 4/25/2013 by Representative Joseph J. Heck (NV-3)

Vulnerable Veterans Housing Reform Act of 2013

Amends the United States Housing Act of 1937 to exclude as family income for Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) housing assistance purposes any Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) payments made to veterans in need of regular aid and attendance for expenses related to such aid and attendance.

Prohibits, in determining the monthly rental assistance payment for low-income families, the amount for tenant-paid utilities from exceeding the appropriate utility allowance for that family unit size as determined by the public housing agency (PHA), regardless of the size of the unit leased by the family. Requires the PHA, upon request by a family that includes a person with disabilities, an elderly family, or a family that includes a person less than 18 years old, to approve a higher utility allowance, except that in the case of a family with a disabled person the PHA shall approve the higher amount only when needed as a reasonable accommodation to make the unit accessible to and usable by that person.

Directs the HUD Secretary to regularly publish data regarding local utility consumption and costs in order to establish appropriate allowances for tenant-paid utilities for assisted families.

4/25/2013, the bill was referred to the House Committee on Financial Services.

#### **H.R.1840**

#### **Senior and Retired Volunteers Act of 2013**

Introduced on 5/6/2013 by Representative Niki Tsongas (MA-3)

Senior and Retired Volunteers Act of 2013

Amends the Internal Revenue Code to allow individuals who have attained age 60 or are disabled an exemption from income and employment taxes for real property tax abatements received under a state or local program in which such individuals have provided services in exchange for such abatements.

On 5/6/2013, referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

**Senate Resolution designating May 2013 as Older Americans Month is provided at:**

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/2013/SRes137.pdf>.

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**Check on active legislation at:**

[http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/legislative/b\\_three\\_sections\\_wit\\_h\\_teasers/active\\_leg\\_page.htm](http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/legislative/b_three_sections_wit_h_teasers/active_leg_page.htm).

**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* or check **Congress.gov United States Legislative Information** at: <http://beta.congress.gov/>.

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**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](#).**

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

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## **OTHER NEWS**

***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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From **HHS, National Center on Elder Abuse, Administration on Aging**  
Information and resources for World Elder Abuse Day can be found at:  
[http://ncea.aoa.gov/Get\\_Involved/Awareness/WEAAD/index.aspx](http://ncea.aoa.gov/Get_Involved/Awareness/WEAAD/index.aspx).

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From the **National Institutes of Health**

NIH announced the appointment of 10 individuals to the NIH Council of Councils. The council was established to advise the NIH Director on policies and activities of the Division of Program Coordination, Planning, and Strategic Initiatives (DPCPSI), including making recommendations on research that represents important areas of emerging scientific opportunities, rising public health challenges, or knowledge gaps that deserve special emphasis or would otherwise benefit from strategic planning and coordination. More information is provided at:

<http://www.nih.gov/news/health/may2013/od-06.htm>.

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From the ***ACL News & Information, Monday, May 13, 2013***

#### **Recent Reports**

**[Medicare Essential: An Option to Promote Better Care and Curb Spending Growth](#)**

Source: The Commonwealth Fund

Date: May 6, 2013

**[The Oregon Experiment – Effects of Medicaid on Clinical Outcomes \(Abstract\)](#)**

Source: New England Journal of Medicine

Date: May 2013

**[Uninsured Veterans and Family Members: State and National Estimates of Expanded Medicaid Eligibility Under the ACA](#)**

Source: Urban Institute

Date: March 2013

**[Declining Medicine Use and Costs: For Better or Worse?](#)**

(A Review of the Use of Medicines in the United States in 2012)

Source: IMS Institute for Healthcare Informatics

Date: May 2013

**[Americans' Perspectives on New Retirement Realities and the Longevity Bonus](#)**

(A 2013 Merrill Lynch Retirement Study, conducted in partnership with Age Wave)

Source: Merrill Lynch

Date: May 2013

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From the **Sloan Center on Aging & Work at Boston College**

*The Costs of Age-related "microaggressions" And What Employers Can Do to Avoid Them* is linked [here](#).

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**National Council on Aging**

**Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act**

MIPPA's impact on older Arizonans is linked [here](#).

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From the **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Aging & Sustainability E-Newsletter**

**[Community Living and NIA--Translational Research to Help Older Adults Maintain their Health and Independence in the Community \(R21\)](#)**

The National Institute on Aging and the Administration on Aging invite applications using R21 award mechanism for translational research that moves evidence-based research findings towards the development of new interventions, programs, policies, practices, and tools that can be used by community-based organizations to help elder individuals remain healthy and independent, and living in their own homes and communities. The goal of this FOA is to support translational research involving collaborations between academic research centers and community-based organizations with expertise serving the elders to enhance our understanding of practical tools, techniques, programs and policies that communities can use to more effectively respond to needs of their aging populations. Deadline: May 7, 2014.

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From the **U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration**

***Don't be a Victim of Moving Fraud*** is linked [here](#).

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**INFORMATION & RESOURCES:**

**WHAT: 2013 World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Event in Maricopa County "The Time to STOP Elder Abuse is NOW"**

**WHEN: Friday, June 14, 2013**, 10:30 am to 1:30 pm, Chandler Fashion Center, 311 W. Chandler Blvd., Chandler, AZ

More information is provided at this link:  
<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/2013/WEAAD2013FlyerFinal.pdf>.

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**WHAT: 2013 Southern Arizona Suicide Prevention Seminar Prevention Intervention Postvention**

**WHEN: Friday, June 21, 2013**, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, CPSA Training Center, 2502 N. Dodge Blvd., Tucson AZ 85716

More information is provided [here](#).

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**WHAT: 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Arizona Rural Health Conference; *The Evolution of Rural Health***

**WHEN: August 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>**, 2013, Prescott AZ

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

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**Creating Caring Communities; NACOG AAA 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference**

***2013 Call for Presentations*** is linked [here](#).

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From the **Sonoran UCEDD** University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Research, and Service *May 2013 newsletter*

New Housing Guidebook for people with disabilities is linked [here](#).

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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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**Have a good weekend!**

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