

Welcome to the Legislative Update for May 24, 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

Only 24 floor actions over the past week; no action in the House on budget bills S1483 through S1492 that were passed last week in the Senate.

On Thursday, the Governor vetoed five Senate bills that had been forwarded citing the bill moratorium enacted two weeks ago. Copies of the veto letters are posted at: http://www.azgovernor.gov/Newsroom/Gov_PR.asp.

JLBC financial report, **Senate Budget Proposal as Engrossed** is provided at: <http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/senateproposalasengrossed051713.pdf>.

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

From the **Joint Legislative Budget Committee**

JLBC Monthly Fiscal Highlights May 2013 is linked here: <http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/mfh-may-13.pdf> and states, "Year-to-date, base revenues are 5.6% higher than last year. In total, year-to-date General Fund collections are \$167.8 million above the Baseline forecast."

Tracking Arizona's Recovery May 2013
<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/TrackingAZRecovery0513.pdf>

Day 131

1,158 bills posted, 238 bills passed; 201 bills signed; 17 vetoed; 75 memorials or resolutions posted and 19 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.

SHORT LIST:

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

FULL LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=24960&listid=47124&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 28, 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](#).

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](#).

FEDERAL OVERVIEW:

S.975

A bill to provide for the inclusion of court-appointed guardianship improvement and oversight activities under the Elder Justice Act of 2009

Introduced on 5/16/2013 by Senator Amy Klobuchar (MN)

On 5/16/2013, the bill was referred to Senate Committee on the Judiciary.

S.1028

A bill to reauthorize and improve the Older Americans Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

Introduced on 5/23/2013 by Senator Bernard Sanders (VT)

On 5/23/2013, S.1028 was referred to Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Fact sheet provided by Senator Sanders:

<http://www.sanders.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/OAA.Summary.pdf>

H.R.1412

Improving Job Opportunities for Veterans Act of 2013

Introduced on 4/9/2013 by Representative Mike Coffman (CO-6)

Improving Job Opportunities for Veterans Act of 2013 - Directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) to carry out a public relations campaign, advertising in national media outlets, to promote VA on-the-job training and apprenticeship programs available to veterans as highly efficient and cost-effective ways of obtaining jobs.

Directs the Secretary, for a certain three-year period, to require training establishments applying for state approval of on-the-job training programs to certify that the wages to be paid an eligible veteran or person upon entrance into training will be increased in regular periodic increments until, by the last full month of the training period, they will be at least 75% (currently 85%) of the wages paid for the job for which such eligible veteran or person is being trained.

Requires the Secretary to enter into agreements with the heads of other federal departments and agencies to operate similar on-the-job training programs to train eligible veterans or persons to perform skills necessary for employment by the department or agency operating the program.

Extends from November 30, 2016, through January 31, 2017, the requirement of a reduced pension (\$90 per month) for veterans (with neither spouse nor child) or surviving spouses (with no child) covered by Medicaid plans under title XIX of the Social Security Act for services furnished by nursing facilities.

5/17/2013 Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 39.

House Reports: [113-64](#)

H.R.1543

Senior Citizenship Act of 2013

Introduced on 4/12/2013 by Representative Jerrold Nadler (NY-10)

Senior Citizenship Act of 2013

Amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to:

(1) exempt certain persons over the age of 75 from the U.S. history, government, and English language naturalization examination requirements; and

(2) permit certain persons over the age of 65 to take such history and government examination in a language other than English.

4/30/2013, the bill was referred to the House Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security.

H.R.1552

Health Freedom for Seniors Act

Introduced on 4/15/2013 by Representative Bill Huizenga (MI-2)

Health Freedom for Seniors Act

Amends the Internal Revenue Code to allow tax-free transfers of required distributions after age 70 1/2 from an individual retirement account (IRA) and other tax-exempt retirement accounts to a health savings account. Exempts such transfers from the excise tax on excess contributions to tax-favored accounts and annuities.

On 4/15/2013, the bill was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

Update on H.R.1585

Guaranteed 3% COLA for Seniors Act of 2013

Introduced on 4/16/2013 by Representative Eliot L. Engel (NY-16)

Guaranteed 3% COLA for Seniors Act of 2013 - Directs the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) of the Department of Labor to prepare and publish a monthly Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers that indicates changes over time in expenditures for consumption which are typical for individuals in the United States age 62 or older.

Amends title II (Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance) (OASDI) of the Social Security Act to:

(1) require the use of such index to compute cost-of-living increases for Social Security benefits; and

(2) provide, in the case of individuals who have attained age 62, for an annual cost-of-living increase of at least 3%.

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

H.R.1713

Social Security and Medicare Protection Act

Introduced on 4/24/2013 by Representative Tim Murphy (PA-18)

Social Security and Medicare Protection Act

Amends the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 to make it out of order in the House of Representatives or the Senate to consider any concurrent resolution on the budget (or related measure) that would set forth a surplus for any fiscal year less than the combined surpluses of the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund, the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund, and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund for that fiscal year.

Makes it out of order in the House of Representatives or the Senate to consider any (spending or tax) measure if its enactment would cause the surplus for any fiscal year covered by the most recently agreed to budget resolution to be less than such combined Fund surpluses.

On 4/24/2013, the bill was referred to the House Committee on Rules and the Committee on the Budget.

H.RES.197

Introduced on 5/6/2013 by Representative Janice D. Schakowsky (IL-9)

Expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that a comprehensive approach to expanding and supporting a strong home care workforce and making long-term services and supports affordable and accessible in communities is necessary to uphold the right of seniors and individuals with disabilities to a dignified quality of life.

On 5/6/2013, the resolution was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

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

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

Check on active legislation at:

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/>.

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](#).

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

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.)

From **U.S. Department of Health & Human Services**

HHS press release related to crack down on Medicare fraud:

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2013pres/05/20130514a.html>

In case you missed it, **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.

HHS press release regarding physician and hospital increased use of health IT:

<http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2013pres/05/20130522a.html>

From the **Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation**

A State-By-State Snapshot of Poverty Among Seniors: Findings From Analysis of the Supplemental Poverty Measure is provided at:

<http://kff.org/medicare/issue-brief/a-state-by-state-snapshot-of-poverty-among-seniors/>.

From the **ACL News & Information, Monday, May 20, 2013**

New Data Show Senior Volunteers at a Ten-Year High

In cities across the country, older Americans are donating their time and expertise in record numbers. According to data released by the [Corporation for National and Community Service](#) (CNCS), senior volunteering hit a ten-year high in 2011. More than twenty million older Americans donated nearly three billion hours of services valued at \$67 billion.

CNCS also found:

- One in three volunteers is age 55 or older.
- The percentage of seniors volunteering increased from 25.1 percent in 2002 to 31.2 percent in 2011.
- 72.4 percent of older adults — higher than the national average — provided informal favors such as helping out a neighbor.

[Read more.](#)

ALSO:

Webinar on Partnering to Serve Veterans and Family Caregivers

Administration on Aging will hold a webinar *Partnering to Serve Veterans and Family Caregivers: Collaborative Opportunities with The Caregiver Support and Geriatrics & Extended Care Programs* on **May 30, 2013, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. ET**. The goal of this webinar is to promote cross-program collaboration between the VA and the Aging and Disability Services Network at state and local levels. The webinar will highlight services available through VA's Caregiver Support Program such as Building Better Caregivers, REACH VA, the Caregiver Support Line, Peer Support Mentoring and the role of the Caregiver Support Coordinator.

1. To register for this online event:
2. [Click here](#) to open the registration site.
3. Click "Register".
4. On the registration form, enter your information and then click "Submit".

From the **National Association of Area Agencies on Aging n4a**

[Aging Network's Volunteer Collaborative](#)

PowerUP! volunteer initiative is linked [here](#).

From the **National Center for Senior Transportation e News May 2013**

Grand Rapids Senior Mentor Program linked at:

http://seniortransportation.easterseals.com/site/PageServer?pagename=NCST2_success_story_TheRapid

Timebanking and Senior Transportation

http://seniortransportation.easterseals.com/site/PageServer?pagename=NCST2_Partners_In_Care

National Council on Aging

8 Facts About Older Adults and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program is linked [here](#).

Elder Justice webpage is linked [here](#).

From the **HHS Million Hearts** initiative

Million Hearts® brings together communities, health systems, nonprofit organizations, federal agencies, and private-sector partners from across the country to fight heart disease and stroke with the goal of preventing 1 million heart attacks and strokes by 2017.

Latest information is linked here:

<http://millionhearts.hhs.gov/index.html>.

From the **National Institutes of Health**

**National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders
NIDCD Observes Tinnitus Awareness Week:**

<http://www.nidcd.nih.gov/news/releases/13/Pages/052013.aspx?nav=update>

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

**WHAT: U of A College of Medicine Phoenix Campus, Community
Lecture: *Medical Ethics 101; Asking the Hard Questions***

WHEN: Friday, June 7, 2013, 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm, Arizona Science Museum, 600 E. Washington St. Phoenix, AZ 85004, located on the North West corner of Washington and 7th Streets

Registration: No registration required. Questions? Call 602-716-2000.

[Click here](#) for more information.

WHAT: World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Pima County 2013

WHEN: Thursday, June 13, 2013, 10 am to 11:30 am, Abrams Public Health Center, 3950 S. Country Club Road, Tucson 85714

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

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

Updated information is provided at this link:

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

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](#).

WHAT: 40th Annual Arizona Rural Health Conference; *The Evolution of Rural Health*

WHEN: August 20th and 21st, 2013, Prescott AZ

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

Creating Caring Communities; NACOG AAA 22nd Annual Conference

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

Also: From the **Arizona Attorney General**

Avoiding charity scams press release is linked at: <http://us5.campaign-archive1.com/?u=cc1fad182b6d6f8b1e352e206&id=91152aab9b&e=737d57d934>

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.

Note: Our thanks to the Arizona Alzheimer's Consortium for the opportunity to help cosponsor today's community conference again this year.

We hope you'll take time this Memorial Day to honor those veterans who have served and are serving our country as part of your holiday activities.

Have a safe, enjoyable weekend!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging