

Welcome to the Legislative Update for July 26, 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!

*Between legislative sessions, it is our intent to offer the **Legislative Update** on a monthly basis with a focus on federal activities as well as news and resources.*

Fiscal News

From the **Joint Legislative Budget Committee**
JLBC Monthly Fiscal Highlights July 2013
<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/mfh-jul-13.pdf>

The report states, "With the fiscal year ending on June 30, FY 2013 General Fund collections totaled \$9.13 billion. This amount is \$155.9 million above the enacted budget forecast."

FY 2014 Appropriations Report is linked [here](#).

Detailed List of General Fund Changes By Agency page is provided [here](#).

Tracking Arizona's Recovery July 2013 can be viewed [here](#).

Now that the regular session is over, you can access the SHORT List and the FULL List of all bills tracked by the Council this legislative session on the Council's **Legislative Update** page by viewing past issues linked [here](#).

Do note that the presence of a bill on any one of the Council's tracking lists **does not represent support or opposition** by the Council to that bill. It **does** mean that it was tracked because it might be of interest to or have an impact on older Arizonans.

In case you missed it

Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System AHCCCS Medicaid Moving Forward webpage that outlines updates to Medicaid programs is provided [here](#).

Planning ahead for the next session

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* provided [here](#).

Share your thoughts at any time! If you have a particular perspective to share with the Governor or your Legislator, 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**. 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 www.azleg.gov.

Not sure about your district? District maps can be found on the website linked [here](#).

Did you know?

The **Arizona Legislative Council**

- Prepare all bills, memorials and resolutions and numerous amendments for consideration during each legislative session.
- Review every law passed by the Legislature, make clerical corrections and draft explanatory notes where appropriate before delivering the office a version of the laws for publication.
- Perform legal and other research at the request of legislators.
- Publish annual editions of the following reports: Arizona Legislative Bill Drafting Manual, the Annual Report on Defects in the Arizona Revised Statutes and State Constitution and the Digest of Laws.
- Perform the enrolling and engrossing bills, memorials and resolutions.
- Provide computer support for the House of Representatives, the Senate and the Joint Legislative Budget Committee.
- Maintain an Internet site for the Legislature. The site provides a variety of detailed information regarding the content and status of bills and the activities of legislative committees.
- Provide management and other support services for various legislative buildings and properties.

FEDERAL OVERVIEW:

The **U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations FY2014** summary is provided in the July 11, 2013 press release linked [here](#).

S.6

Putting Our Veterans Back to Work Act of 2013

Introduced on 1/22/2013 by Senator Harry Reid (NV)

Putting Our Veterans Back to Work Act of 2013 - Amends the:

(1) VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011 to extend through March 31, 2016, the veterans retraining assistance program; and

(2) Wounded Warrior Act to extend through 2016 the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) (Secretary) to provide the same rehabilitation and vocational benefits to members of the Armed Forces (members) with severe injuries or illnesses as are provided to veterans.

Extends through:

(1) March 31, 2016, additional VA rehabilitation programs for certain disabled veterans who have completed a VA rehabilitation program and have exhausted their rights to state unemployment benefits; and

(2) FY2015 the collaborative veterans' training, mentoring, and placement program.

Directs the Secretary to develop a single, unified federal web-based employment portal for veterans to access information on federal programs and activities concerning veterans employment, unemployment benefits, and training.

Directs the:

(1) Secretary of Homeland Security (DHS) to award grants to hire veterans as firefighters, and

(2) Attorney General (AG) to award grants to hire veterans as law enforcement officers.

Requires the head of each executive and defense agency to consider favorably, as an evaluation factor in federal solicitations for contracts and task or delivery orders valued at or above \$25 million, the employment by a prospective contractor of veterans constituting at least 5% of the contractor's workforce.

Allows a veteran on whose behalf a complaint of a violation of employment or reemployment rights under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) is made by the AG to intervene in such action, and to obtain appropriate relief. Requires the AG, within 60 days after receiving a referral of an unsuccessful attempt to resolve a complaint relating to a state or private employer, to notify the person on whose behalf the

complaint is submitted of either the decision to commence such an action or of when such decision is expected to be made. Requires, in the latter case, such decision to be made within an additional 30 days. Requires the AG to commence such an action when there is reasonable cause to believe that a state or private employer is engaged in a pattern or practice of resistance to the full enjoyment of such rights and benefits, and that the pattern or practice denies the full exercise of such rights and benefits.

Authorizes the suspension, termination, or debarment of federal contractors for repeated failures or refusals to comply with USERRA protections.

Provides the Special Counsel with subpoena power to require the attendance and testimony of, and production of documents from, federal employees, to be enforced through the Merit Systems Protection Board.

Authorizes the AG, in employment or reemployment rights investigations, to issue and serve a civil investigative demand for the production of documentary material.

Update: On 7/24/2013, Senate committee/subcommittee actions. Status: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.

S.287

A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand the definition of homeless veteran for purposes of benefits under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

Introduced on 2/12/2013 by Senator Mark Begich (AK)

Includes as a homeless veteran, for purposes of eligibility for benefits through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), a veteran or veteran's family fleeing domestic or dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions in the current housing situation, including where the health and safety of children are jeopardized, there is no other residence, and there is a lack of resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing.

On 7/24/2013, Senate committee/subcommittee actions. Status: Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.

Recent legislation from Thomas (with text still pending)

S.1356

A bill to amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to strengthen the United States workforce development system through innovation in, and alignment and improvement of, employment, training, and education programs in the United States, and to promote individual and national economic growth, and for other purposes.

Introduced on 7/24/2013 by Senator Patty Murray (WA)

On 7/24/2013, the bill was referred to Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

S.1358

A bill to establish an advisory office within the Bureau of Consumer Protection of the Federal Trade Commission to prevent fraud targeting seniors, and for other purposes.

Introduced on 7/24/2013 by Senator Amy Klobuchar (MN)

Text of legislation pending.

On 7/24/2013, bill was referred to Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

S.1361

A bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to accept additional documentation when considering the application for veterans status of an individual who performed service as a coastwise merchant seaman during World War II, and for other purposes.

Introduced on 7/24/2013 by Senator Christopher S. Murphy.

Text of legislation pending.

On 7/24/2013, bill was referred to Senate committee. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R.2753

Securing Care for Seniors Act of 2013

Introduced on 7/19/2013 by Representative Diane Black (TN-6)

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve Medicare Advantage, and for other purposes.

On 7/19/2013, the bill was referred to House Committee on Ways and Means, and Committee on Energy and Commerce.

H.R.2826

To amend title III of the Social Security Act to prevent the payment of unemployment benefits to incarcerated individuals.

Introduced on 7/25/2013 by Representative David G. Reichert (WA-8)

Text of legislation pending.

On 7/25/2013, the bill was referred to House Committee on Ways and Means.

H.R.2827

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to allow for fair application of the exceptions process for drugs in tiers in formularies in prescription drug plans under Medicare part D.

Introduced on 7/25/2013 by Representative Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr. (GA-4)

Text of legislation pending.

On 7/25/2013, the bill was referred to House Committee on Energy and Commerce and Committee on Ways and Means.

H.R.2828

To amend titles XI and XVIII of the Social Security Act to prevent fraud and abuse under the Medicare program and to require National Provider Identifiers for reimbursement of prescriptions under part D of the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

Introduced on 7/25/2013 by Representative Gus M. Bilirakis (FL-12)

Text of legislation pending.

On 7/25/2013, the bill was referred to House Committee on Energy and Commerce, and Committee on Ways and Means.

H.R.2843

To amend title XI of the Social Security Act to provide for the public availability of Medicare claims data.

Introduced on 7/25/2013 by Representative James F. Sensenbrenner, Jr. (WI-5)

Text of legislation pending.

On 7/25/2013, the bill was referred to House Committee on Ways and Means, and Committee on Energy and Commerce.

S.J.RES.20

A joint resolution proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

Introduced on 7/11/2013 by Senator Mark Udall (CO)

Constitutional Amendment - Prohibits total outlays for a fiscal year (except those for repayment of debt principal) from exceeding total receipts for that fiscal year (except those derived from borrowing) unless Congress, by a three-fifths roll call vote of each chamber, authorizes a specific excess of outlays over receipts.

Excludes receipts (including attributable interest) and outlays of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund, or either of their successor funds, from consideration as receipts or outlays for purposes of this Amendment.

Directs the President to submit a balanced budget to Congress annually.

Authorizes waivers of these provisions when a declaration of war is in effect or under other specified circumstances involving military conflict.

Prohibits Congress from passing any bill that provides a net reduction in individual income taxes for those with incomes over \$1 million (as may be adjusted by Congress to account for inflation) if, after enactment, total outlays would exceed total receipts in any fiscal year affected by the bill.

Prohibits a federal or state court from ordering any reduction in the Social Security benefits authorized by law, including any benefits provided from the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund, the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund, or either of their successor funds.

On 7/11/2013, referred to Senate Committee on the Judiciary.

NOTE: Congress is in recess during August - a good time to visit with your Senators and Representatives at the local level.

ALSO: If you want to check on the status of any of these bills or others, go to the **Thomas** website (<http://thomas.loc.gov/>) and enter the bill number or title under *Search Bill Summary & Status*.

You can also conduct a bill search and review at:
<http://beta.congress.gov/>.

See active federal legislation at:
http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/legislative/b_three_sections_with_teasers/active_leg_page.htm.

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>.

NEWS & RESOURCES

From the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC**
The State of Health & Aging in America 2013 report is provided [here](#).

Taken from the ***ACL News & Information, Monday, July 22, 2013***
Long-Term Care Commission

The 15-member Long-Term Care Commission (LTC) heard recommendations regarding "Populations in Need of LTSS and Service Delivery Issues" and worker issues. Experts from various medical facilities, universities and research centers spoke.

The committee is expected to make recommendations to Congress by the end of September and is now seeking input from LTC providers. Providers can submit a comment abstract, which is a one-to-two page (double-spaced) overview of a provider's major points or a description of his or her proposal. Another option is to submit a single attachment, which can be more detailed and any length.

Proposals should be entered as a Word document or PDF and attached in an email to comment@ltccommission.senate.gov.

New Resource from NIA to Detect Cognitive Impairment in Older Adults

Clinicians and researchers now have a new and simple way to find appropriate instruments to evaluate the cognitive status of older patients in the primary care setting. The [Instruments to Detect Cognitive Impairment in Older Adults Database](#) from the National Institute on Aging (NIA) at the National Institutes of Health contains detailed information about more than 100 published instruments for detecting Alzheimer's disease and other types of cognitive impairment.

Each instrument in the database was developed as a cognitive assessment for age-related dementia and has had at least three published studies using the instrument since its debut and at least one publication in the last 10 years.

Users can search the database by specific criteria, such as time to administer the instrument, the administrator's level of expertise, cost, and target diagnosis. They can also find instruments that have been evaluated in specific populations and translated into languages other than English. Each instrument is summarized, with references cited and linked for easy access.

Administration on Aging Performance Outcome Measurement Project Webpage

The Administration on Aging's [Performance Outcome Measurement Project \(POMP\) webpage](#) is now available. With the POMP webpage, we aim to increase public awareness of the information and tools necessary to conduct

performance-related surveys, as well as promote the results of POMP projects over time.

From the **ACL News & Information, Monday, July 15, 2013**

Final Report from the Process Evaluation for the CDSME Program

The final report for the Chronic Disease Self Management Education Program (CDSME) Process Evaluation is now available. This evaluation examined state CDSME programs funded through the "Communities Putting Prevention to Work: Chronic Disease Self-Management Program," an initiative of the Administration for Community Living/Administration on Aging (AoA) in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. The [report and its appendices](#) are available on the AoA website.

New AHRQ Guide Helps Hospitals Engage Patients and Families in Health Care

A new online resource from the Department of Health and Human Services' Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) gives hospitals four evidence-based strategies to engage patients and families in their care. The field-tested strategies in [Guide to Patient and Family Engagement in Hospital Safety and Quality](#) can help hospitals improve both care and safety by bridging the communication gaps among patients and families and their health care providers.

From **USA.gov**

Prevent and Report Identify Theft information is linked [here](#).

From the **Alzheimer's Association and the CDC**

The Healthy Brain Initiative is provided at

<http://www.alz.org/publichealth/2013-report/index.html#/0>

National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease: 2013 Update

<http://aspe.hhs.gov/daltcp/napa/NatIPlan2013.shtml>

From the **U.S. Government Accountability Office, GAO**

Report: **Elder Justice: More Federal Coordination and Public Awareness Needed** is available at: <http://gao.gov/products/GAO-13-498>

From the **National Council on Aging NCOA**

Falls Free® Initiative free webinar on August 22nd to get ready for Falls Prevention Awareness Day, September 22, 2013. For more information and to register, see this [link](#).

From **Community AGEnda: Improving America for All Ages, an initiative of Grantmakers In Aging**
Age-Friendly Communities: An Introduction for Private & Public Funders
http://www.giaging.org/documents/130402_GIA_AFC_Primer.pdf

From **Kaiser Health News**
Medicare Announces Plan To Accelerate Linking Doctor Pay to Quality is linked [here](#).
IOM Finds Differences In Regional Health Spending Are Linked To Post-Hospital Care And Provider Prices is linked [here](#).

From the **National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities**
NASUAD Friday Updates July 19, 2013
[**At the Crossroads: Providing Long-Term Services and Supports at a Time of High Demand and Fiscal Restraint**](#)

From **The Sloan Center on Aging & Work at Boston College**
AGEnda Aging & Work Blog: [The Best Life; Challenges of An Aging Workforce](#)

From **AARP**
Staying Ahead of the Curve 2013: AARP Multicultural Work & Career Study
Perceptions of Age Discrimination in the Workplace - Ages 45-74 is linked [here](#).

From the **U.S. Department of Labor**
Employee Benefits Security Administration toolkit developed in cooperation with the Social Security Administration and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to help workers understand important decisions related to employment-based plans, Social Security and Medicare is provided at:

<http://www.dol.gov/ebsa/pdf/retirementtoolkit.pdf>.

From the **U.S. Department of Health & Human Services HHS**
[**Million Hearts E-Update July/August 2013**](#)
In case you missed it
Updated **LongTermCare.gov website** is linked [here](#).

From the **Federal Reserve Board's Division of Consumer and Community Affairs (DCCA)**
Insights into the Financial Experiences of Older Adults: A Forum Briefing Paper July 2013 is linked [here](#).

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

WHAT: Arizona Rural Development Council 2013 Rural Policy Forum
WHEN: August 8th & 9th in Phoenix, Arizona
For more information and to register: <http://www.azrdc.org/2013-rural-policy-forum/>

Information on the **Arizona Coalition for Assisted Living** July 30th meeting is linked [here](#).

WHAT: 40th Annual Arizona Rural Health Conference
WHEN: August 20 - 21, 2013, Prescott Resort and Conference Center, Prescott AZ

Information is provided at this [link](#).

WHAT: Arizona Housing Forum
WHEN: September 18 - 20, 2013, Talking Stick Resort, Scottsdale

More information and registration is provided [here](#).

WHAT: 22nd Annual Area Agency on Aging Elder Issues Conference; *Creating Caring Communities: Positive Changes, Positive Choices*
WHEN: October 4, 2013, High Country Conference Center, Flagstaff, AZ

For more information and to register, click [here](#).

Save the Date
WHAT: Western Arizona Council of Governments WACOG Area Agency on Aging Region IV Conference on Aging
WHEN: January 30, 2014, Hilton Garden Inn Yuma/Pivot Point

For more information, click [here](#).

**WHAT: Arizona Geriatrics Society's 25th Annual Fall Symposium
Multimorbidity & The Interprofessional Team: Keeping Patients at the
Center of Care**

**WHEN: Friday and Saturday, November 8 - 9, 2013, Desert Willow
Conference Center, Phoenix AZ**

More information including registration is 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.

Between legislative sessions, it is our intent to offer the **Legislative Update**
on a monthly basis with a focus on federal activities as well as news and
resources.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!
~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

