

Welcome to the Legislative Update for November 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!

Between legislative sessions, it is our intent to offer the **Legislative Update** monthly.

Fiscal News

From the **Joint Legislative Budget Committee**

JLBC Monthly Fiscal Highlights November 2013 is linked [here](#).

"Year-to-date, General Fund revenues are 4.6% above the prior year and are \$7.3 million above forecast. While year-to-date collections are near forecast, performance in each revenue category show a more mixed picture..."

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

The second regular session of the 51st Legislature begins on January 13, 2014. A copy of the Legislative Council's session deadlines can be found [here](#).

To review the list of Interim Committee meeting, go to:
<http://www.azleg.gov/InterimCommittees.asp>.

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](#).

Interested in the budget process? You can learn more at:
<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/budgetprocess.htm>

Need to review the Arizona Constitution? Go to:
<http://www.azleg.gov/Constitution.asp>

Have questions on navigating the Arizona State Legislature website? A helpful resource, *Frequently Asked Questions*, is provided [here](#).

Share your thoughts at any time! 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**. 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**.

Not sure about your congressional or legislative district? Maps can be found [here](#).

In case you missed it:

Fact Sheet *Why Older Arizonans Need Our Support* is provided [here](#).

Interested in the legislation tracked by the Council on Aging last session? You can access the SHORT List and the FULL List of all bills tracked by the Council at the Council's *Legislative Update* page by viewing past issues linked [here](#).

Do note that the presence of a bill on any 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.

FEDERAL OVERVIEW:

Update on Older Americans Act Reauthorization

S.1562

Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2013

Introduced on 9/30/2013 by Senator Bernard Sanders (VT)

Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2013 - Reauthorizes the Older Americans Act of 1965 (OAA) and funding for its programs for FY2014-FY2018.

- Requires the Director of the Office of Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs (in the Administration on Aging [AOA] of the Department of Health and Human Services [HHS]) to collect, analyze, and report on best practices related to elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation in long-term care facilities.
- Requires the Assistant Secretary for Aging of the AOA to focus: (1) on the health and economic needs and welfare of older individuals; and (2) ensure that authorized programs include appropriate training in the prevention of abuse, neglect, and exploitation and provision of services that address elder justice and the exploitation of older individuals.

- Reauthorizes appropriations for FY2014-FY2018, and revises requirements, for the AOA, the Eldercare Locator Service, pension counseling and information programs, supportive services, congregate nutrition services, disease prevention and health promotion services, family caregiver support, the nutrition services incentive program, the Community Service Senior Opportunity Act, grants for Native Americans.
- Revises requirements for the national family caregiver support program and the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman program, revising conflict-of-interest requirements and prohibitions for the latter.
- Requires health programs for older individuals to cover behavioral health.
- Directs the Comptroller General to study the transportation services for older individuals.
- Directs the Assistant Secretary to issue guidance to applicable to states, area agencies on aging, and providers of services for older individuals, with respect to serving Holocaust survivors.

0/30/2013 Senate committee/subcommittee actions. Status: Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.

S.Res.301 - A resolution recognizing and supporting the goals and implementation of the National Alzheimer's Project Act and the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease.

Introduced on 11/19/2013 by Senator Richard Durbin (IL)

Text of the resolution is provided [here](#).

S.Res.303 - A resolution declaring that achieving the primary goal of the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease of the Department of Health and Human Services to prevent and effectively treat Alzheimer's disease by 2025 is an urgent national priority.

Introduced on 11/20/2013 by Senator Susan M. Collins (ME)

Text of the resolution is provided [here](#).

H.Res.396 - Supporting the goals and ideals of November as National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month.

Introduced on 10/30/2013 by Representative Chaka Fattah (PA-2)

Text of the resolution can be found [here](#).

**H.R.3388
Child and Elderly Missing Alert Program Act of 2013**

Introduced on 10/30/2013 by Representative Steve Chabot (OH-1)

Intent is to authorize the Attorney General to provide a grant to assist Federal, State, tribal, and local law enforcement agencies in the rapid recovery of missing individuals.

Section 1701 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3796dd) is amended to:

- permit eligible nonprofit organizations to assist Federal, State, tribal, and local law enforcement agencies in the rapid recovery of missing children, elderly individuals, and disabled individuals through the use of a rapid telephone and cellular alert call system,
- maintain and expand technologies and techniques to ensure the highest level of performance of such services;
- provide both centralized and on-site training and distribute information to Federal, State, tribal, and local law enforcement agency officials about missing children, elderly individuals, and disabled individuals and use of a rapid telephone and cellular alert call system;
- provide services to Federal, State, tribal, and local Child Abduction Response Teams;
- assist Federal, State, tribal, and local law enforcement agencies to combat human trafficking through the use of rapid telephone and cellular alert calls;
- share appropriate information on cases with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the AMBER Alert, Silver Alert, and Blue Alert programs, and appropriate Federal, State, tribal, and local law enforcement agencies; and
- assist appropriate organizations, including Federal, State, tribal and local law enforcement agencies, with education and prevention programs related to missing children, elderly individuals, and disabled individuals.

Eligibility: To be an eligible nonprofit organization for purposes of a grant under this subsection, a nonprofit organization shall have experience providing rapid telephone and cellular alert calls on behalf of Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies to find missing children and elderly adults.

On 10/30/2013, the bill was referred to House Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R.3501

Generational Residences and Nurturing Dwellings Act

Introduced on 11/14/2013 by Representative Jose E. Serrano (NY-15)

Generational Residences and Nurturing Dwellings Act or GRAND Act - Establishes in the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) a program to provide need-based assistance for each fiscal year, made available on a competitive basis, to up to five eligible nonprofit organizations to expand the supply of specialized housing and social services for qualified elderly relatives, age 60 or older, who are raising a child of which they are not a parent either by blood or marriage.

Provides such assistance in the form of:

- financing for the construction, reconstruction, moderate or substantial rehabilitation, or acquisition of a structure or a portion of a structure to be used as specialized housing in accordance with the program;

- tenant-based rental (voucher) assistance under the United States Housing Act of 1937 for use only by qualified relatives who are raising a child and are eligible for such assistance for rental of a dwelling unit that qualifies as specialized housing;
- elderly housing project rental assistance under the Housing Act of 1959 in connection with dwelling units that qualify as specialized housing and are made available for occupancy only by qualified relatives who are raising a child and are eligible for occupancy in such housing; and
- help with ongoing operational expenses of any specialized housing, including costs of supportive services required for such housing.

11/14/2013 Referred to the House Committee on Financial Services.

H.R.3531

Creating Access to Rehabilitation for Every Senior (CARES) Act of 2013

Introduced on 11/19/2013 by Representative James B. Renacci (OH-16)

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to eliminate the 3-day prior hospitalization requirement for Medicare coverage of skilled nursing facility services in qualified skilled nursing facilities, and for other purposes.

On 11/19/2013, H.R.3531 was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

If you want to check on the status of any of these bills or others, go to Congress.gov website and enter the bill number to conduct a bill search and review at: <http://beta.congress.gov/>.

See **active federal legislation** on the Senate website 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

U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging

On November 6th, the **Senate Special Committee on Aging** held a hearing "to examine the transportation challenges faced by our nation's seniors, particularly those living in rural areas who do not have access to public transportation." The press release is posted [here](#).

U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging offers a toll-free fraud hotline

1-855-303-9470

More information is available at: <http://www.aging.senate.gov/fraud-hotline>

From the **Administration for Community Living** ACL

Tuesday, November 26, 2013 Newsletter

Let's Talk: Starting the Conversation about Health, Legal, Financial and End-of-Life Issues

The Eldercare Locator, in partnership with The Conversation Project, launched its 11th Home for the Holidays campaign with the release of a new guide for families to help start conversations about health, legal, financial, and end-of-life issues. Check out the guide [here](#).

National Alzheimer's Project Act updated information can be found at:
<http://aspe.hhs.gov/daltcp/napa/>.

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

Squeezing Seniors: Aging Community Fears National Crisis as a Result of Federal Budget Cuts is found at:

http://www.n4a.org/pdf/n4a_SequesterSurveyReport_FINAL.pdf

From the **National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities**

Friday Updates, November 22, 2013

Two New Resources Focus on States' Medicaid Eligibility and Enrollment Policies

The Kaiser Family Foundation's Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured has released two new resources which provide detailed new information on Medicaid eligibility levels and enrollment policies in all 50 states and the District of Columbia taking effect January 2014 as a part of the Affordable Care Act.

[Getting into Gear for 2014: Shifting New Medicaid Eligibility and Enrollment Policies into Drive](#) provides an overview of the new Medicaid eligibility levels for adults and children as of January 2014, both in states that are expanding the program under the ACA and those that are not.

[Fast Track to Coverage: Facilitating Enrollment of Eligible People into the Medicaid Expansion](#) examines state experience with new "fast track" enrollment options provided to states that allow them to enroll eligible individuals into coverage using data already available from their Supplemental Nutrition Assistance programs (SNAP) and/or their Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Programs for children.

From the **National Council on Aging NCOA**

[My Medicare Matters](#)

From **PHI**

FACTS 3: America's Direct Care Workforce is offered [here](#).

From the **Consumer Financial Protection Bureau**

Guides to assist financial caregivers are posted at:

<http://www.consumerfinance.gov/blog/managing-someone-elses-money/>.

The Sloan Center on Aging & Work at Boston College

AGEnda, Aging & Work Blog

[Out in the Cold](#)

From **USA.gov**

Scams Targeting Service Members or Veterans is posted at:

<http://www.stopfraud.gov/service-members.html>

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

WHAT: 2013 Arizona Summit on Volunteerism and Service Learning

WHEN: December 6 & 7, 2013, ASU West Campus

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

WHAT: Impacted by Younger-Onset Alzheimer's? Have Questions on SSDI or SSI?

WHEN: Thursday, December 12, 2013, 5:30 to 7:30 pm, One Voice Community Center, 4442 N. 7th Avenue, Phoenix AZ 85013

Seating is limited; for more information, call Jill at 602.528.0545

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](#).

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.

Look for the next issue after the start of the 51st Legislature, Second Regular Session in January 2014.

Enjoy your holiday season!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging

