

## Welcome to the Legislative Update for February 22, 2014

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 older citizens and advocates of 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 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!

### The 51<sup>st</sup> Legislature, 2<sup>nd</sup> Regular Session

Since last Friday, 744 floor actions filed; 61 of those on bills tracked in the Council's **FULL List**.

Bills passed this week include SB1062 and HB2196. Links to fact sheets are provided below.

**[SB1062](#)**: exercise of religion; state action

**[HB2196](#)**: election law amendments; repeal

**Strike Everything Amendments** impacting legislation tracked by the Council

**HB2007**: developmental disabilities service contracts; monitoring

Fact sheet is linked [here](#). Adopted amendment is provided [here](#).

**HB2331**: life care contracts; in-home care

Fact sheet is linked [here](#). Adopted amendment is provided [here](#).

**Recent action** on bills previously featured and tracked by the Council

**SB1097**: silver alert notification system, 2/20 referred to House Public Safety, Military & Regulatory Affairs committee

**SB1135**: qualified immunity; nonprofit clinics, 2/20 referred to House Health and Judiciary committees

**SB1370**: adult protective services registry, 2/20 from Senate Health & Human Services committee do pass

### Other

**HB2475**: tax credits; veterans

HB 2475 establishes a tax credit for individuals and corporations that hire unemployed veterans with exceptions and provides a state contract

participation goal for veteran-owned businesses.

Fact Sheet: House Summary 2/19/2014 Caucus/Committee of the Whole (COW) is provided [here](#).

**Hearings next week** on bills tracked by the Council

**HCR2005:** investigational drugs; biological products; devices , House Rules Committee, 2/24 at 1 pm, House Rm. 4

**HB2306:** fingerprint clearance cards; periodic checks , Senate Public Safety Committee, 2/26 at 2 pm, Senate Rm. 109

**Legislative Deadlines**

House Deadlines 2014 list is posted [here](#).

Senate Session Timeline is posted [here](#).

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**Summary of Action**

As of **day 40, 1,186 bills posted; 6 passed; 4 signed** by the Governor; **109 memorials or resolutions posted** and **10 passed**.

Some of the bills may be of interest to older Arizonans and will be tracked by the Council and appear on the Legislative Update web report page. Please be advised that the presence of a bill on the tracking list **does not** represent support or opposition by the Council to the bill. It **does** mean that the bill topic is something that 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=25263&listid=50228&print=true>

Note: The FULL LIST web report above provides you with the current status and upcoming hearing information about the bills being tracked by the Council and is available and updated on an ongoing basis 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

This list will continue to be edited and/or expanded as we have an opportunity to get through all the bills. We will continue to edit the list throughout the session. Information about bill status, hearings, etc. is a purchased service provided by **Arizona Capitol Times**.

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**Fiscal News**

From the **Joint Legislative Budget Committee**

**JLBC Monthly Fiscal Highlights February 2014** is posted at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/mfh-feb-14.pdf> and states: "Overall January General Fund collections were \$(18.5) million below the Baseline forecast. Year-to-date, revenues are 2.7% higher than last year."

**JLBC Staff Presentations to the Appropriations Committees** include links for AHCCCS, DES, and DHS and can be found at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/15appropsresentations.pdf>.

**Tracking Arizona's Recovery February 2014** is posted [here](#).

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### **Arizona State Legislature Website Resources**

A list of the Representatives and Senators, Standing Committees and their members can be found on the Arizona State Legislature website at the following links.

[Members of the House](#)

[Members of the Senate](#)

[Standing Committees](#) page (Click on the committees to view the members as well as any posted meeting agendas or minutes for that committee.)

If you want to learn more about the legislative process, see [Arizona Bill](#) or [Bill to Law](#) 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>.

**You can find scheduled capitol events [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**. 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 the website link above.

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

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## **FEDERAL OVERVIEW:**

### **H.R.3894**

#### **Senior Citizens Tax Elimination Act**

Introduced on 1/16/2014 by Representative Thomas Massie (Ky-4)

Senior Citizens Tax Elimination Act - Amends the Internal Revenue Code to repeal the inclusion of any social security or tier I railroad retirement benefits in gross income.

Appropriates funds to cover reductions in transfers to the Social Security and Railroad Retirement Trust Funds resulting from the enactment of this Act. Expresses the sense of Congress against using tax increases to provide revenue necessary to carry out this Act.

1/16/2014 the bill was referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

### **H.R.3912**

#### **Recruiting Individuals to Drive Our Elders Act of 2014**

Introduced on 1/16/2014 by Representative Suzan K. DelBene (WA-1)

Recruiting Individuals to Drive Our Elders Act of 2014 or RIDE Act of 2014 - Directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to publish an interim final rule to revise certain Medicaid transportation regulations to allow a state plan under title XIX (Medicaid) of the Social Security Act to provide, at state option, reimbursement for costs attributable to providing no-load volunteer travel services to Medicaid-eligible individuals who require transportation to receive non-emergency medical treatment.

On 1/16/2014 the bill was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

### **Update on H.R.3388**

#### **Child and Elderly Missing Alert Program Act of 2013**

1/09/2014 Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security and Investigations by the House Judiciary for Committee Consideration.

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If you want to check on the status of any of these bills, go to <http://beta.congress.gov/> and enter the bill number or title.

See **active federal legislation** at this [link](#):

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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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**NEWS & RESOURCES**

**National Council on Aging's latest Fact Sheets** can be found [here](#). Information about the Older Americans Act Reauthorization, provided by **NCOA**, can be found at: <http://www.ncoa.org/public-policy-action/older-americans-act/>.

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Highlights taken from the **National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities - NASUAD Friday Updates, February 21, 2014**

**Revised Updates to Food Assistance Benefits**

Earlier this month, Congress approved and the President signed a new Farm Bill, which has significant impacts on food and nutrition benefits. The National Council on Aging (NCOA) has written a summary of the Farm Bill's benefits to seniors. The law includes cuts of over \$8.6 billion in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits over the next 10 years that will affect individuals in 16 states and the District of Columbia. The law also provides for

the transition of the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) to a seniors-only program.

[Click here](#) to view the Bill summary.

[Click here](#) to view the NCOA's explanation of the Farm Bill's benefits for seniors.

**Updated Eligibility Charts for LIS and MSP**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Social Security Administration (SSA) have updated the eligibility criteria for the Part D Low-Income Subsidy (LIS) and the Medicare Savings Programs (MSPs) for 2014. NCOA has published charts that will assist organizations to screen and assist clients in applying for these assistance programs.

[Click here](#) to view NCOA's LIS chart.

[Click here](#) to view NCOA's MSP quick-screen charts.

[Click here](#) to view SSA's updated LIS publication.

[Click here](#) to view the update from CMS on MSPs.

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From the **National Institute on Aging**

**2012-2013 Alzheimer's Disease Progress Report** is linked [here](#).

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**National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease** updated information can be found at: <http://aspe.hhs.gov/daltcp/napa/>.

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**Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration-SAMHSA**

**Behavioral Health Disaster Response Mobile App** for first responders giving them access to field resources for aiding disaster survivors can be found [here](#). Also: **Mayors' Resource Guide to Behavioral Health Issues** is posted [here](#).

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From **Social Security**

Starting March 17, 2014, veterans who have a VA compensation rating of 100% permanent and total (P&T) may receive expedited processing of

applications for Social Security disability benefits.

Information is posted at: <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pgm/disability-pt.htm>.

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

**AGenda Aging & Work Blog**

*Ahead of the Curve* is posted [here](#).

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From **PHI**

**STUDY: Dementia-Focused Care Interventions Helps Elders Remain in Own Homes** is provided [here](#).

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**INFORMATION & RESOURCES:**

**Arizona Living Well Institute** has posted a new item, *Join us for the American Diabetes Association's annual Arizona Diabetes Day at the Capitol on Thursday, February 27th*

You may view the latest post, 'Join us for the American Diabetes Association's annual Arizona Diabetes Day at the Capitol on Thursday, February 27th', at <http://azlwi.org/join-us-for-the-american-diabetes-associations-annual-arizona-diabetes-day-at-the-capitol-on-thursday-february-27th.html>

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**WHAT: Using Medications Wisely: A Community Education Training**

**WHEN: February 25, 2014**, 10:00 to 11:30 am, 1930 S. Alma School Road, Suite A118, Mesa, AZ 85210

**RSVP and other information found [here](#).**

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**WHAT: 23rd Annual Alzheimer's Education Conference**

**WHEN: Friday, February 28, 2014**, East Valley Institute of Technology, 1601 W Main Street, Mesa, AZ

**More information is provided [here](#).**

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**WHAT: MEETING OF THE MINDS; Mayor's Alzheimer's Education Conference**

**WHEN: Wednesday, March 12, 2014**, Tucson Jewish Community Center, 3800 East River Road, Tucson AZ 85718

Information is provided [here](#).

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**WHAT: Senior & Caregivers Expo**

**WHEN: Friday, March 14, 2014**, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, Liberty Traditional School, 3300 N Lake Valley Rd., Prescott Valley, AZ

More information is provided at: [http://www.seniorconnection.us/Expo\\_Brochure.pdf](http://www.seniorconnection.us/Expo_Brochure.pdf).

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**WHAT: Hands Crossing Arizona: Building Awareness one person at a time;** Brain Injury Awareness Month event

**WHEN: March 30, 2014**, 2:00 to 4:00 pm, Indian Steel Park Ramada area

Flyer with more information provided [here](#).

Map can be found [here](#).

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**WHAT: 2014 AzTA/ADOT Annual Spring Conference & Bus Rodeo**

**WHEN: April 13 – 15, 2014**, University Park Marriott, Tucson, Arizona

Information and registration provided [here](#).

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**WHAT: Arizona ALFA 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Conference and Expo**

**WHEN: April 22 – 24, 2014**, Radisson Fort McDowell Resort

More information provided at the bottom of this training [flyer](#).

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Just in case you're interested

Past 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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**We appreciate your patience as we work through formatting issues with this newsletter.**

**Thank you! Enjoy the rest of your weekend.**

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



If you wish to be REMOVED from or know someone who would like to be ADDED to the Update, please send an email to: [gaca@az.gov](mailto:gaca@az.gov) and ask to be unsubscribed or subscribed to the **Legislative Update**.