

## Welcome to the Legislative Update for April 11, 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

This week, the legislature passed a \$9.23 billion budget for fiscal year 2015. Today, the Governor signed the 2015 budget. A copy of the press release that includes links to the letters detailing the line item vetoes is provided [here](#).

From the **Joint Legislative Budget Committee**

General Fund Budget Proposal Enacted Budget Dollar Changes 4/11/14 is linked [here](#).

Impact of FY 2015 Line-Item Vetoes is provided [here](#).

The Finance Advisory Committee Revenue and Budget Update is linked [here](#).

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### Summary of Action

As of day 89, 1,205 bills posted; 40 passed; 18 signed by the Governor; 1 vetoed; 112 memorials or resolutions posted and 22 passed.

Some of the bills may be of interest to older Arizonans and are being 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 until the session ends. Information about bill status, hearings, etc. is a purchased service provided by *Arizona Capitol Times*.

Next week:

**H2331: life care contracts; in-home care**

Calendar: 4/14 Senate Committee of the Whole (COW)

**H2549: nursing care institution; therapeutic drugs**

Calendar: 4/14 Senate Committee of the Whole (COW)

**H2667: persons with disabilities**

Calendar: 4/14 Senate Committee of the Whole (COW)

**HCR2005: investigational drugs; biological products; devices**

Calendar: 4/14 Senate Committee of the Whole (COW)

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**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 can 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 by **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.

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

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## **FEDERAL OVERVIEW:**

### **H.R.4302**

#### **Protecting Access to Medicare Act of 2014**

Introduced on 3/26/2014 by Representative Joseph R. Pitts (PA-16)

To amend the Social Security Act to extend Medicare payments to physicians and other provisions of the Medicare and Medicaid programs, and for other purposes.

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

On 04/01/2014, *became Public Law No: 113-93*.

### **H.Res.526**

#### **Recognizing the important work of the Meals on Wheels Association of America and its member programs throughout the country in addressing senior hunger and improving the quality of life for millions of our nation's seniors each year.**

Introduced on 3/27/2014 by Representative David Loebsack (IA-2)

Recognizes the important work of the Meals On Wheels Association of America and its member programs in addressing senior hunger, increasing awareness of the need for senior nutrition programs, and in raising non-federal funds and soliciting volunteers to support these programs.

Honors the Meals On Wheels Association of America and senior nutrition programs around the country.

Encourages Members of Congress to support their local senior nutrition programs by participating in their local March For Meals events and delivering meals to home bound seniors in a community within their district or state.

On 3/27/2014, referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

### **H.R.4351**

#### **Alzheimer's Accountability Act of 2014**

Introduced on 4/1/2014 by Representative Brett Guthrie (KY-2)

To amend the National Alzheimer's Project Act to require the Director of the National Institutes of Health to prepare and submit, directly to the President for review and transmittal to Congress, an annual budget estimate (including an estimate of the number and type of personnel needs for the Institutes) for the initiatives of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to such Act.

Text of bill is provided [here](#).

On 4/1/2014, the bill was referred to the House Committee on Energy & Commerce.

Related legislation: S.2192

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If you want to check on the status of any of these bills or others, 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 or Senators 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**

From the **National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities - NASUAD**  
*Friday Updates, April 11, 2014*

The Alzheimer's Association recognizes, [National Healthcare Decisions Day](#) (NHDD) on **April 16**. This day provides an opportunity to empower individuals to make the best health care decisions and plans for their future care. This is especially important for individuals in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias when they can still express their future wishes and care decisions before cognition and function decline. Early planning also eliminates the guesswork for families and allows time to work through complex legal and financial issues.

The Elder Justice Coalition (EJC) released a statement on the death of Mickey Rooney, an award-winning actor in films, television and Broadway. "The bi-partisan, 3000 member Elder Justice Coalition mourns the death of Mickey Rooney, American Oscar-winning film legend and elder abuse victim, who died yesterday at the age of 93." In a statement released today, National Coordinator Bob Blancato said "His courageous testimony before the Senate Special Committee on Aging focused the eyes of a nation on the growing problem of elder abuse. Financial abuse costs its victims \$2.9 billion a year and the direct medical costs associated with elder abuse now exceed \$5 billion. In his testimony, Rooney explained that he was stripped of his basic rights."

[Click here](#) to view the entire news release.

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From the **Administration for Community Living (ACL)**

[Older American Month 2014](#)

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From **Kaiser Health News**

[Alzheimer's Disease Model Could Save Minn. Millions](#)

*Top Boston Hospital Begins to Tackle Readmissions Problem* is linked [here](#).

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**National Alzheimer's Project Act**

Updated information can be found at: <http://aspe.hhs.gov/daltcp/napa/>.

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[Resources](#) from the **PHI National Clearinghouse** on Direct Care Workforce

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Genworth 2014 Cost of Care [Survey](#)

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From **National Council on Aging (NCOA)**

*Top Ten Scams Targeting Seniors* is linked [here](#).

It's Financial Literacy Month

*Savvy Saving Seniors* [toolkits](#)

Better Choices Better Health

*Arthritis interaction online* [workshop](#)

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**INFORMATION & RESOURCES:**

**WHAT: 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide Symposium in Support of Service Members, Veterans & Their Families**

**WHEN: April 23 & 24, 2014**, Desert Willow Conference Center, Phoenix AZ

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

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**WHAT: Goodwill Yuma Job Fair**

**WHEN: Wednesday, May 22, 2014**, Yuma Civic Center, 1440 West Desert Hills Drive, Yuma AZ 85365

More information is provided [here](#).

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**Caregiver Connection - April 2014** is linked [here](#) and contains resources for northern Arizona.

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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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**Thank you! Enjoy your weekend.**

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

