

Welcome to the Legislative Update for March 10, 2015

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. The purpose of this service is to keep older Arizonans and advocates of aging services informed about bills and actions taking place at the Arizona State Legislature and to highlight federal legislation or activities 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!

Our newsletter is delayed due to March Governor's Advisory Council on Aging meetings.

Budget

The budget bills S1469 – S1480 and SCR1018 - passed on Saturday - are included in the FULL LIST link found [here](#).

Governor Ducey's press release about the budget is linked [here](#).

Recent action on tracked bills

H2170: lifespan respite care program; appropriation – 3/10 House Third Reading; House summary (3/9) [here](#)

H2171: lifespan respite care; program termination – 3/10 House Third Reading; adopted amendment [here](#)

S1282: teledentistry; dental hygienists; dental assistants – 3/ 9 referred to the House Health Committee; Senate Fact Sheet (3/5) as passed Committee of the Whole [here](#)

S1136: nursing facility assessment; continuation – 3/10 House Caucus

SIGNED

S1194: loan repayment; medically underserved areas – 2/24 signed by the Governor; House Summary as transmitted to the Governor [here](#)

NOTE: Bill summaries are provided by Arizona State Legislature website or *Arizona Capitol Reports*.

Hearings

H2196: nursing assistants; nurse aids – 3/11 Senate Health & Human Services at 2:00 pm, Senate Rm. 1

H2373: AHCCCS: Orthotics – 3/11 Senate Health & Human Services at 2:00 pm,

Senate Rm. 1

NOTE: You can see all actions and hearings scheduled for bills being tracked by the Advisory Council on Aging at the top of the report when opening the **FULL LIST** link. BE SURE to click on the bill number for more information on that bill.

You can watch live proceedings through the Arizona State Legislature's website; go to [Arizona Capitol Television](#) for more information.

Some of this session's bills may be of interest to older Arizonans and will continue to be tracked by the Council and appear on the *Legislative Updates* web report page. Please be advised that the presence of a bill on a tracking list does not represent support or opposition by the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. It does mean that the topic is something that is likely to be of interest to or have an impact on older Arizonans.

FULL LIST [Link](#)

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 updated throughout the session. Information about bill status, hearings, etc. is a purchased service provided by *Arizona Capitol Reports*.

ALSO: You can find information on any bill at the Arizona State Legislature's [Bills Info](#) page.

Fiscal News

From the **Joint Legislative Budget Committee**

FY 2016 March Plan Engrossed (3/9/15) provided [here](#)

JLBC – Monthly Fiscal Highlights February 2015 [here](#)

Schedules

Arizona State Legislature ALIS Today calendar linked [here](#)

Senate Weekly Schedule linked [here](#)

House Weekly Schedule linked [here](#)

Deadlines

Friday, March 20 marks the last day for House consideration of Senate bills and

Senate consideration of House bills.

Senate [2015 Session Timeline](#)

House [Important Deadlines](#)

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](#) (Be sure to click on the committees to view the members as well as any posted meeting agendas or minutes for that committee.)

Share your thoughts! If you have a particular perspective to share with the Governor or your Legislators, you can voice your opinions by contacting the:

- **Governor’s Office of Constituent Services** at 602-542-4331 in Phoenix, 520-628-6580 in Tucson and in-state toll free at 1-800-253-0883 (outside Maricopa County only) or
- The **legislator(s) 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.***

Not sure about your congressional or legislative district? **Maps** can be found on the Arizona State Legislature website linked [here](#).

Website Resources

Need to learn more about the legislative process? See [Arizona Bill](#) or ***Bill to Law*** provided [here](#).

Learn about the budget process [here](#).

Review the Arizona Constitution [here](#).

Learn more at Frequently Asked Questions linked [here](#).

FEDERAL OVERVIEW:

S.570

Comprehensive Dental Reform Act of 2015

Introduced on 2/25/2015 by Senator Bernard Sanders (VT)

To improve access to oral health care for vulnerable and underserved populations.

Text [here](#)

On 2/25/2015, read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.

Summary from the Subcommittee on Primary Care and Retirement Security [here](#)

Related bill: H.R.1055; 3/6/2015 referred to the Subcommittee on Health

S.343

Reducing Overlapping Payment Act

Introduced on 2/3/2015 by Senator Jeff Flake (AZ)

Amends title II (Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance) (OASDI) of the Social Security Act to require reduced to zero the total of an individual's monthly disability insurance benefits and any spouse's, surviving spouse's, child's, widow's, widower's or parent's OASDI benefits based on the individual's wages and self-employment income for any month before the individual attains retirement age in which that individual is entitled to both disability insurance benefits and unemployment compensation.

S.499

Social Security Disability Insurance and Unemployment Benefits Double Dip Elimination Act

Introduced on 2/12/2015 by Senator Orrin G. Hatch (UT)

Amends title II (Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance) of the Social Security Act to declare that for any week in whole or in part within a month that an individual is paid or determined to be eligible for unemployment compensation he or she shall be deemed to have engaged in substantial gainful activity and so be disqualified from receiving Social Security disability benefits after a certain period has elapsed.

States that, for purposes of determining services rendered by an individual during a period of trial work which will not disqualify the individual for disability benefits, the individual shall be deemed to have rendered services in a month if he or she is entitled to unemployment compensation or trade adjustment assistance for that month.

On 2/12/2015, referred to the Committee on Finance.

H.R.380

Medicare Identity Theft Prevention Act of 2015

Introduced on 1/16/2015 by Representative Sam Johnson (TX-3)

Amends title II (Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance) (OASDI) of the Social Security Act (SSA) to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish cost-effective procedures to ensure that: (1) a Social Security account number (or any derivative) is not displayed, coded, or embedded on the Medicare card issued to an individual entitled to benefits under part A (Hospital Insurance) of SSA title XVIII (Medicare) or enrolled under Medicare part B (Supplementary Medical Insurance); and (2) any other identifier displayed on such card is not identifiable as a Social Security account number (or any derivative).

On 1/16/2015, referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

H.R.314

Notch Fairness Act of 2015

Introduced on 1/13/2015 by Representative Grace Meng (NY-6)

Amends title II (Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance) (OASDI) of the Social Security Act to revise the formula for the computation of minimum Old Age Insurance benefits for individuals who reached age 65 in or after 1979, and to whom applies the 15-year transition period for the changes in benefit computation rules enacted in the Social Security Amendments of 1977.

("Notch" refers to birth in the United States between 1917 and 1921, as a result of which a retiree born between those years received lower cost-of-living increases in Social Security than others after Congress readjusted Social Security benefits in 1977.)

Sets forth a schedule of additional benefit increases for such beneficiaries (and related beneficiaries), with percentages declining from 55% to 5% and keyed to the year an individual became eligible for such benefits between 1979 and 1988.

Allows such beneficiaries, in the alternative, to receive lump sum payments over four years totaling \$5,000.

On 1/13/2015, referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

Related bills: [S.99](#)

H.R.603

Savings for Seniors Act of 2015

Introduced on 1/28/2015 by Representative Marsha Blackburn (TN-7)

Amends title II (Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance) (OASDI) of the Social Security Act to establish in the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund a Social Security Surplus Protection Account to hold the Social Security surplus.

Denies the availability of the balance in the Account for investment by the Managing Trustee.

Establishes the executive branch of Government a Social Security Investment Commission to study the most effective vehicles for investment of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund, other than investment in the form of U.S. obligations resulting in the transfer of Trust Fund assets to the general fund of the Treasury.

On 1/28/2015, referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

H.R.675

Veterans Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2015

Introduced on 2/13/2015 by Representative Ralph Lee Abraham (LA-5)

Directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to increase as of December 1, 2015, the rate of veterans' disability compensation, additional compensation for dependents, the clothing allowance for certain disabled veterans, and dependency and indemnity compensation for surviving spouses and children.

Requires each such increase to be the same percentage as the increase in benefits provided under title II (Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance) of the Social Security Act, on the same effective date.

On 2/13/2015, referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.

H.R.677

American Heroes COLA Act of 2015

Introduced on 2/13/2015 by Representative Ralph Lee Abraham (LA-5)

Requires that, whenever there is an increase in benefit amounts payable under title II (Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance) of the Social Security Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall increase by the same percentage the amounts payable as veterans' disability compensation, additional compensation for dependents, the clothing allowance for certain disabled adult children, and dependency and indemnity compensation for surviving spouses and children.

On 2/13/2015, referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs.

H.R.837

Medicare Residential Care Coordination Act of 2015

Introduced on 2/13/2015 by Representative Michael G. Fitzpatrick (PA-8)

Directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish and implement a demonstration project under titles XVIII (Medicare) and XIX (Medicaid) of the Social Security Act to evaluate the use of capitated payments made to eligible continuing care retirement communities for residential care coordination programs.

On 2/13/2015 referred to the Subcommittee on Health.

Related bill: S.395

H.R.842

Huntington's Disease Parity Act of 2015

Introduced on 2/10/2015 by Representative Adam Kinzinger (IL-16)

Directs the Commissioner of Social Security, for purposes of determining cognitive, behavioral, and physical disability under titles II (Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance) and XVI (Supplemental Security Income) of the Social Security Act (SSAct), to amend specified Listings of Impairments by providing medical and evaluation criteria for Huntington's Disease.

Amends SSAct title II to waive the 24-month waiting period for coverage under the program under SSAct title XVIII (Medicare) for individuals diagnosed with Huntington's Disease.

On 2/10/2015, referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

H.R.973

Social Security Fairness Act of 2015

Introduced on 2/13/2015 by Representative Rodney Davis (IL-3)

Amends title II (Old Age, Survivors and Disability Insurance) (OASDI) of the Social Security Act to repeal the government pension offset requirement applicable to and reducing husband's and wife's insurance benefits, widow's and widower's insurance benefits, and divorced mother's and divorced father's insurance benefits with respect to federal, state, or local government employees who receive a government pension and did not pay Social Security taxes during their years of government service, and so did not earn entitlement to Social Security benefits for those years.

Repeals also the windfall elimination requirement with respect to computation of an individual's primary insurance amount under which OASDI retirement or disability benefits are reduced if the individual receives a federal, state, or local government pension, did not pay Social Security taxes during the years of government service, and

so did not earn entitlement to Social Security benefits for those years.

On 2/13/2015, referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means.

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

Check for active federal legislation at this [link](#).

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

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

White House Conference on Aging Regional Forum information [here](#). Watch for regional listening sessions offered around our state on March 31st. A list of listening sessions will be provided by the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging as soon as it is available.

From **National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities/NASUAD**

Friday Updates, March 6, 2015

NASUAD Launches Disability Training for I&R Specialists

On March 4, the National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD) released a new training module on disability for Information and Referral (I&R) specialists on the [NASUADiQ online learning center](#). This training module, "Disability for I&R Specialists," provides participants with an overview of key issues relevant to providing information and referral/assistance (I&R/A) to individuals with disabilities. The training module covers several topics including disability awareness, effective communication, services and trends in service delivery, resources, disability rights and advocacy, and empowerment. The training concludes with a self-administered quiz.

In partnership with the Alliance of Information and Referral Systems (AIRS) and n4a, this training module will assist Certified Information & Referral Specialist - Aging (CIRS-A) certificate holders to grandfather to the new Certified Information & Referral Specialist - Aging/Disabilities (CIRS-A/D) credential. CIRS-A holders may take the disability training at any time from now until the existing date of their AIRS Recertification. After receiving a Certificate of Completion for the training and quiz, an individual holding a CIRS-A can immediately use the designation of "CIRS-A/D." However, they will not receive a CIRS-A/D Certificate from AIRS until they have officially recertified on their existing renewal date. This training course can also account for two of the ten hours of professional training required for AIRS Recertification. Additionally, this training module may benefit any I&R specialist who would like to become more proficient at serving people with disabilities.

[Click here](#) to access this free disability training.

For information on AIRS Certification, [click here](#).

From the **National Alzheimer's Project Act**

Updated information can be found at:

<http://aspe.hhs.gov/daltcp/napa/#102714Mtg>.

(Be sure to scroll up and down the page for information.)

From **Kaiser Health News**

[Awake, And Safe, All Night Despite Dementia](#)

Other coverage of aging and long-term care [here](#)

From the **U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development**

HUD press release regarding \$150 Million Award for permanent homes and services for low-income persons with disabilities [here](#)

From the **National Council on Aging**

March 11th Webinar: Substance Abuse and Misuse: Impact on Older Adults

More information [here](#)

Highlights from the **Fall prevention Awareness Day 2014** [here](#)

2015-2015 Priorities for Congress [here](#)

From the **Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute/PHI**

Update on Department of Labor Home Care Rule [here](#)

INFORMATION & RESOURCES

WHAT: The University of Arizona College of Medicine Phoenix Mini Medical School 2.0

WHEN: March 11, April 1, May 6

More information [here](#)

WHAT: The Senior Connection's Senior & Caregiver Conference & Expo

WHEN: Friday, March 13, 2015, 10 am to 3 pm, Liberty Traditional School, 3300 N Lake Valley Road, Prescott Valley

More information [here](#)

WHAT: Young at Heart Senior Health Expo

WHEN: Wednesday, March 18, 2015, 9:00 am to 12:00 Noon, Library Recreation Annex, 21802 S. Ellsworth Rd., Queen Creek 85142

For more information, contact Rachel Thornton at 480-358-3721 or Rachel.thornton@queencreek.org

Coming in April

Arizona Transit Association

2015 AZTA/ADOT conference April 12 – 15, 2015

More information [here](#)

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>.

You can help circulate resource information. If you would like to submit an **educational** or **public service event** for consideration, be sure to send an email with the description and a link or pdf document to: gaca@az.gov . Please note: we try to include resources and events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service advocates and refrain from including fundraising or marketing materials.

Have a good rest of your week!

~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 and ask to be unsubscribed or subscribed to the **Legislative Update**.

Governor's Advisory Council on Aging
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