



# Senior Advocates FYI

2/4/2011

This is the first installment of SA-FYI for the 2011 legislative session. As you are aware, there was a historic shift in the make-up of the Minnesota Legislature after the 2010 election, with the Republicans now controlling both the House and the Senate. New Republican committee chairs were named at the end of last year. During the first month of session, committees have focused mainly on holding informational hearings to orient their members to the state budget and to the issues they will be grappling with during session. The overall number of bills introduced is smaller than in previous years at this time. Therefore, the list of bills on the bill tracker is relatively short. The Governor will release his proposed budget to the Legislature on February 15<sup>th</sup>, after which the discussion about the state budget will likely become more intense. Future installments of SA-FYI will provide further updates regarding the Governor's budget.

The following pages list the bills that the MBA and Area Agency on Aging directors are tracking to this point. As in previous years, the main source of research and information on bills and hearings for SA-FYI is the Legislative Resource Team of the Continuing Care Administration at the Department of Human Services. Without access to the work products of the legislative team, the number of bills followed by SA-FYI would not be possible. MBA staff seek to identify bills of interest to seniors and aging advocates that might not be called to the attention of DHS personnel (i.e. transportation, education, pension reform). You as subscribers to SA-FYI can help by calling our attention to bills you are following that you don't see showing up on this tracker. Send information to John Selstad at the contact information below.

Last summer, Kenneth Moritz, chairman of the Senior Organization Network recommended to the MBA public policy committee that the SON meeting schedule be changed from twice a month during session to an as-needed basis at the call of the chair. He also urged that the distribution of the SA-FYI be on a more frequent basis, so that updated bill tracker information can get out to more individuals and organizations and help them stay abreast of developments on bills affecting seniors.

You can assist us by passing the word that free subscription to the SA-FYI can be arranged by sending email addresses to Diane Mangan at [Diane.Mangan@state.mn.us](mailto:Diane.Mangan@state.mn.us).

As in the past, we welcome your suggestions for how to improve the SA-FYI. Once again, send your comments to John Selstad.

**Senior Advocates FYI is a periodic update from the  
Minnesota Board on Aging.  
Call 1-800-882-6262 or e-mail [john.selstad@state.mn.us](mailto:john.selstad@state.mn.us)**

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**AAA Legislative Update  
February 4, 2011**

<b>Senate File</b>	<b>House File</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Status</b>
SF0035 Rest	HF0043 Fritz	<b>Caregiver Tax Credit</b> This bill proposes establishing a home care tax credit program for family caregivers providing unpaid personal care assistance services for qualifying individuals of all ages living in the community. Care must likely delay an out of home placement. It proposes amending duties of the long-term care consultation team, and adding duties for the commissioner including establishing a caregiver burden scale which is used in scoring applicants for the home care credit, and coding for a new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 290 (Income and Franchise Taxes).	- Introduced 1/10
HF0061	Ward	<b>Faith in Action Funding</b> Allocates \$600,000 from the existing Department of Human Services budget to Minnesota Faith in Action to fund 30 individual Faith in Action volunteer groups at \$20,000 per program. The commissioner will issue \$300,000 semiannually and funding is permanent. Faith in Action volunteer groups will report to DHS on how the funds are used.	- Introduced 1/10
	Benson, M.	<b>Voter Photo ID Requirement</b> Voter picture identification required before receiving a ballot, voter identification card provided at no charge, and provisional balloting procedure established.	- Introduced 1/13 - Heard in House Government Operations and Elections committee 2/3
HF0089	Gottwalt	<b>Alzheimer's Disease Working Group Bill</b> Contains new requirements for MDH, DHS, and MBA designed to implement a limited number of the recommended state government actions contained in the January 12, 2011 report to the legislature of the Alzheimer's Disease Working Group.	- Introduced 1/24
HF0200	Kiffmeyer	<b>Voter Photo ID Requirement</b> Voter picture identification required before receiving a ballot, identification cards provided at no charge, provisional ballot procedures established, election administration procedures specified, electronic polling place required, recount procedures enacted, and money appropriated.	- Introduced 1/24 - Heard in House Government Operations and Elections committee 2/3
HF0210			

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SF0169 Limmer	HF0302 Kiffmeyer	<p><b>Voter Photo ID Requirement</b> Photo identification requirement; picture identification issuance provisions; provisional balloting procedure establishment; electronic polling place roster use requirement; recount procedure enacting; appropriating money.</p>	- Introduced 1/31
SF0195 Limmer		<p><b>Vulnerable Adult Justice Project Bill</b> Makes numerous changes to statutes related to vulnerable adults, including: increasing criminal penalties for abuse of a vulnerable adult; making sexual abuse of a vulnerable adult by certain individuals a registrable offense under predatory offender registration law; making changes intended to increase transparency of DHS' administrative review of contested maltreatment findings for vulnerable adults and their representatives; and clarifying jurisdictions of licensing agencies and counties for investigating maltreatment reports.</p>	<p>- Introduced 2/2 - Hearing scheduled in Senate Judiciary and Public Safety 2/8</p>
HF0315	Fritz	<p><b>Long-Term Care Provider Rate Increases</b> Provides a 4% rate increase for nursing facilities, a 3% rate increase for ICFs/MR, and a 3% rate increase for home and community based service waiver providers, PCA services, aging grants, and other community services. Specifies that a certain percentage of the rate increase must be used to increase wages and benefits for employees.</p>	- Introduced 2/2