



Senior Advocates FYI

3/16/2010

This is the first installment of SA-FYI for the 2010 legislative session. It is a stressful session given the financial challenges for the biennial budget.

The following pages are presented in a table format that was instituted in 2008 and seemingly well received.

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. However, if any reader is aware of bills of significant interest to the aging network, that are not being followed; please advise staff at the contact information at the bottom of the page.

As in previous years, you may find actual text of all bills and legislative staff summaries of many bills at:

<http://www.leg.state.mn.us/leg/legis.asp>

**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**

Minnesota Board on Aging --Summary as of March 15, 2010

Senate File	House File	Description	Status
SF118	HF135	Minnesota Health Act -Universal coverage, single payer plan (This is a priority of some of the SON members.) -HF2901 is an alternative health reform bill by Republican sponsors	-Passed by Judiciary (S) and sent to Gov't Operations on 2/15 -Passed HCHS Policy, sent to HCHS Finance (2/25)
	HF2563	MN Faith in Action Funding - 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.	-Referred to House HCHS Finance
SF2933	HF3234	DHS Continuing Care Policy Bill - Bill contains policy modifications regarding existing level of care (LOC), and personal care assistant (PCA) provisions.	-Passed by Senate HCHS Policy -Scheduled to be heard 3/17 House
	HF3442	House LTC Proposal -Multiple issues re fees, assisted living, transitional consultation, NF rates and more.	-Heard in HCHS Policy, reported out w/o rec. to HCHS Finance Div.
SF3194	HF3276	Predatory offender registration for abuse of vulnerable adult - Criminal abuse of a vulnerable adult crime made a registrable offense under the predatory offender registration law.	-Passed out of Public Safety Policy to Public Safety Finance
SF3195	HF3333	Criminal Penalties for Assaulting a Vulnerable Adult -Making assault of VA a gross misdemeanor	
SF1770	HF2062	Ladder Out of Poverty Task Force - Establishes a "Ladder Out of Poverty Task Force" to identify specific actions and policies to assist Minnesotans avert or escape poverty. Builds on specific strategies set forth by the Commission to End Poverty by 2020: 1) Establish public policies to encourage Minnesotans to accumulate and maintain assets, 2) ban predatory financial practices, 3) increase financial literacy. Names older women as among the poorest Minnesotans and particularly vulnerable to financial hardship. Specifies the members of the task force.	-Second reading in House -Rules and Administration in Senate
SF2477	HF3201	MA-EPD (Medical Assistance for Employed Persons with	-SF2904 in Senate Health, Housing

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SF2904	HF3252	Disabilities) - Both sets of bills would allow people who are enrolled in MA-EPD who reach age 65 to retain assets, within the current MA-EPD asset limit.	and Family Security -HF3252 passed in policy, referred to HCHS Finance Div.
SF2603	HF2841	Expansion of Volunteer Ombudsman for LTC - Directs the long-term care ombudsman to expand the volunteer ombudsman program, and appropriates money.	-Laid over for possible inclusion in the HCHS Omnibus bill -In Senate Finance

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SF2669	HF2794	<p>Grants to local governments for senior housing with services - Appropriates money from the bond proceeds fund for the purposes of making grants to local units of government to renovate and replace publicly owned nursing facilities, the renovate publicly owned nursing facilities to be housing with services, and to develop new publicly owned housing with services.</p>	
SF2796	HF3128	<p>Substitute Decision-Making - The bill modifies provisions affecting guardians and conservators; clarifies powers for health care agents, guardians, and others to make health care decisions for wards and protected persons; clarifies the information delivery process in a guardianship/conservatorship proceeding, specifies when a court may declare a health care directive unenforceable; works to delineate duties when a health care agent and guardian may co-exist; and modifies other provisions statutes that involve this type of substitute decision-making.</p>	-Scheduled for 3/17 hearing in Civil Justice (H)
SF2903	HF3151	<p>New Family Options Regarding Care for a Body Following Death -Modifies provisions for viewing, transportation, and removal of a dead human body (Older Women's League priority)</p>	-23 House cosponsors, second reading
SF2986	HF3663	<p>Prepaid Health Plan Contracts -Sets minimum loss ratio of 90% and requires use of certain accounting procedures; providing health care providers and others a right to audit under those contracts; providing for resolution of disputes</p>	-Out of Senate Policy to Finance
SF2998	HF3250	<p>PACE program authorizations modified - Removes the requirement (2005) that grant funding be received prior to DHS initiating the Medicaid state plan amendment to begin PACE program development. Appropriates \$.(LTC Imperative priority)</p>	-Passed HCHS Policy 3/10 to Finance (money to come from CS/SD)
	HF3531	<p>Silver Alert Program Authorized -Establishes the Minnesota Silver Alert System for adults living with dementia or other cognitive impairment; appropriating money; (Alzheimer's Assoc.</p>	