



Senior Advocates FYI

4/14/2010

This is the second installment of SA-FYI for the 2010 legislative session. The legislature continues to wrestle with the budget deficit for the current biennium. In addition, the legislature must now account for the impact of federal health care reform on the state's current policies, programs, and funding for health and long-term care. The next step is for the House and Senate to release their Health and Human Services (HHS) Omnibus Supplemental Budget bills, at which time we will have a better understanding of the fiscal provisions that are likely to move forward.

The following pages list the bills that the MBA and other Senior Organization Network (SON) members are tracking. As always, the status of any bill can change quickly, so please check the legislative web site for the most up-to-date information. You will find the full text and the current status of all bills, as well as non-partisan legislative staff summaries for many bills, on the web site:

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

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 included in the following list, please advise MBA staff using the contact information at the bottom of the page.

Thank you for your continued interest in the 2010 Minnesota Legislative Session, especially as it relates to the impact on older adults. We will continue to keep you apprised of significant developments.

**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
Senior Advocates FYI – Summary as of April 14, 2010**

Senate File	House File	Description	Status
	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.	- <i>No movement</i>
	HF3442	House LTC Proposal -Long-term care budget cuts. Amended to consist solely of initiation of NF rebasing 10/10.	-Sent back to HHS Budget Div. on 4/1
	HF3531	Silver Alert Program Authorized -Establishes the Minnesota Silver Alert System for adults living with dementia or other cognitive impairment; appropriating money; (Alzheimer's Assoc. priority)	- <i>No movement</i>
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 on 2/25 - <i>No movement since 2/25</i>
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 3/11 -Advanced by State Government Budget Div. to Finance in Senate on April 7
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 House HHS Omnibus bill -In Senate Finance

**Minnesota Board on Aging
Senior Advocates FYI – Summary as of April 14, 2010**

Senate File	House File	Description	Status
SF2669	HF2794	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.	- <i>No movement</i>
SF2796	HF3128	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 of statute that involve this type of substitute decision-making.	-Passed in House 3/24 -Passed in Senate 4/12 -Presented to the Governor 4/13
SF2903	HF3151	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)	-Passed in House 4/6 -On Senate Floor awaiting vote
SF2904	HF3252	MA-EPD (Medical Assistance for Employed Persons with Disabilities) - Allows people who are enrolled in MA-EPD who reach age 65 to retain assets, within the current MA-EPD asset limit.	- Laid over for possible inclusion in the House HCHS Omnibus bill -In Senate Finance
SF2923	HF3196	Minnesota Department of Health policy bill -Clarifies the commissioner of health’s regulatory functions related to home health care. Provides additional consumer protections for home care clients.	- Passed in Senate 3/29 - Passed in House 4/12 - Presented to Governor 4/13

**Minnesota Board on Aging
Senior Advocates FYI – Summary as of April 14, 2010**

Senate File	House File	Description	Status
SF2933	HF3234	DHS Continuing Care Policy Bill - Contains policy modifications regarding existing level of care (LOC), and personal care assistant (PCA) provisions.	- Passed in Senate 3/29 - On House floor awaiting vote
SF2986	HF3663	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.	-In Senate Finance -In House HHS Budget Div.
SF2998	HF3250	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)	-Scheduled to be heard in Senate HHS Budget Division 4/15 -In House HHS Finance Division
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.	- <i>No movement since 3/8</i>
SF3195	HF3333	Criminal Penalties for Assaulting a Vulnerable Adult -Making assault of vulnerable adult a gross misdemeanor	- <i>No movement since 3/17</i>
SF3313	HF3686	Grant for memory care clinic -Provides \$100,000 grant to St. Cloud memory center from MDH provided 50% matching grant is received.	-Held over for possible inclusion in House Omnibus bill
SF3236	HF3657	LTC liaison office established - Establishes a long-term care liaison office in the Department of Health to assist providers in resolving issues related to interactions with state agencies; establishes duties; requires state agency cooperation.	- <i>No movement</i>