



# **CALIFORNIA SENIOR LEGISLATURE**

## **SANTA CLARA COUNTY NEWS**

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Senior Senator Bob Jaffee, Editor

### **CSL 2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

#### **STATE PRIORITIES**

##### **CSL URGENCY PROPOSAL**

###### **AP-28 Sr. Asy.member Monck & Sr. Senator Levy- LONG-TERM CARE OPTIONS**

**SENATORS ALQUIST & DYMALLY-BILL SB 633.** *This proposal would establish the right of any person in need of long-term Care services that are available in an institutional setting to receive those services in the community and to make changes in programs and agencies to implement that right.* **ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.**

###### **AP-14- Sr. Asy.member Lucero-Hearing Aid Availability and Cost. ASY.MEMBER**

**DYMALLY—AB 311**-Proposal requires that hearing aids be made available for over-the-counter sales and vendors be encouraged to submit a plan to the Hearing Aid Dispensers Bureau. **ASSEMBLY HEALTH COMMITTEE.**

###### **AP-19-Sr. Asy.member Trotter- SENATOR CORREA- Senior Facility Infrastructure Upgrades.**

**SENATOR CORREA-SB 977.** Proposal establishes a study of the infrastructure needs being shaped by increases in the senior population and includes funding for upgrades and renovations. **SENATE RULES COMMITTEE.**

###### **AP-25-Sr.Asy. member Young --Skilled nursing facilities end-of-Life Privacy.-**

**ASY.MEMBER SALAS-AB 1142** Would require all skilled nursing facilities in the state to provide a private room or at a minimum a room designated as hospice- **SENATE APPROP. COMMITTEE.**

###### **SP-2 Sr. Senator Fromm- IHSS Criminal Background Checks. SENATOR MULLIN**

**SB 692** Authorities to obtain criminal background checks and subsequent arrest notification for non-IHSS providers. **SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE.**

###### **SP-3 Sr. Senator Goldman – Senior Citizens I.D. Cards. –ASSEMBLYMEMBER KREKORIAN.**

Proposal requires the DMV to notify seniors who choose not to renew driver's licenses that a senior **AB 966** -citizen ID card is available free of charge.- **REREFERRED TO SEN. APPROP. COMM.**

**SP-4-Sr. Senator Griswold – Property Tax Exemptions.** Proposal increases the homeowner's property tax exemption from \$7,000 to \$27,000 for seniors. **Senator Symth- AB 351 ASSEMBLY – ASSEMBLY REVENUE AND TAXATION COMMITTEE.**

**(OVER)**

**AB1276 ASY.MEMBER KARNETTE-Previous year Sr. Asy.member Gould- Pharmacies: Prescription Containers: Labels REREFERRED TO ASY .BUS. & PROFESSIONAL COMM. NO CHANGE.**

**FEDERAL PROPOSALS**

**AFP 1 Assemblymember Karr-(Note: 2005 proposal) SJR 12-Senator SIMITIAN;--a joint resolution asking the President and Congress to issue a special elder abuse awareness postage stamp to raise money and to raise awareness of this issue. Letters are requested to Congressional representatives and the President.**

**CSL SUPPORT**

**AB-267 Assembly Member Calderon—ANNUITY SALES-SENIORS.**

**Assembly Member Jones AB 853 Home care services-Amended Health and Safety Code. -- ASSEMBLY INSURANCE COMMITTEE.**

**AB 399-ASSEMBLYMEMBER FEUER/BERG- LONG TERM HEALTH CARE FACILITIES-Bill requires the department to complete its investigation of the complaint within 40 working days of receipt. SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

**AB 495 -ASSEMBLYMEMBER TRAN—TAXATION: HOMEOWNER’S PROPERTY TAX**

**Bill would increase homeowners’ exemption from \$7,000 to \$25,000 for qualified renters who are 62 year old or older—ASSEMBLY REVENUE AND TAXATION COMMITTEE.**

**DRUG MAKERS-COMBINATION PILLS Excerpts from Kaiser Daily Health Policy Report**

Prescription drugs increasingly are being offered as combination therapies, in which two or more medications are combined in a single dose. According to the *Times*, the trend in part is being driven by drug manufacturers facing patent expirations and competition from generic drug makers.

Physicians hope combination drugs will help patients be more compliant with drug prescriptions as signs of increasingly serious illnesses and might not take them “out of denial”. Multiple treatments combined into a single pill could make illnesses seem more manageable.

Some drugs might be able to save money on insurance co-payments, but costs largely depend on whether the combination treatment is covered. Some combination drugs can save patients money, other are more expensive than buying the drugs separately.

**MEDICARE PART D “DONUT HOLE”—Excerpts taken from HICAP NEWSLETTER**

Medicare Part D Coverage Gap is expected to occur earlier and more often in 2007. Part D plans generally stop paying at the \$2,400 mark which is the Coverage Gap or “Donut Hole”. In 2007, you enter the coverage gap when the total cost of your prescriptions drugs, including what you have paid **plus** what has been paid for your drugs by your Medicare drug plan on your behalf goes over \$2,400. You remain in the *coverage* gap until what you spend out of pocket in 2007. If your total cost reaches \$3,850 in 2007, you get *catastrophic coverage*.

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