

New York StateWide Senior Action Council

2007 Bill Tracker

As of 10/22/2007

Bills in Bold are High Priority

SUPPORTED BY STATEWIDE		
HEALTH CARE		
BILL NO./SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
A7354 Gottfried S3107 Schneiderman New York Health Plan	Establishes a comprehensive system that provides access to health insurance for New York state residents; establishes the administrative structure as a public benefit corporation	Passed Assembly Health Cmte, in Ways and Means. In Senate Finance.
S323 Golden Bulk Purchasing Cooperative Program	Establishes a prescription drug bulk purchasing cooperative program for public employees and other participants who may join.	In Senate Aging Cmte. No Assembly same as bill.
S316 Golden Prescription Drug Assistance Program	Creates the Prescription Drug Assistance Program to provide Rx drugs at reduced prices through rebates from manufacturers.	In Senate Finance Cmte. No Assembly same as bill.
A3848 Gottfried Prescription Drug Assistance Program	Enacts a prescription assistance program through bulk purchasing and rebates for public employees and other participants who may join, including individuals with no prescription coverage, EPIC, insurance programs, employee health programs, and health care facilities.	Passed Assembly Health Cmte, in Codes Cmte. No Senate same as bill.
S1315 Farley A4611 Lifton Prescription Drug Bulk Purchasing Study	Establishes the prescription drug one source purchase task force to make recommendations regarding how to consolidate prescription drug purchases for all state agencies; study to include ways for municipal governments to join bulk purchasing.	In Senate Finance Cmte. In Assembly Health Cmte.
A1014 Gottfried Medicaid/Medicare Part D Wrap Around	Restores Medicaid wrap-around coverage for Medicare Part D drugs	In Assembly Health Cmte. No Senate same as bill.
A3598 Gottfried S2134 Hannon Medicare Part D co-payments toward Medicaid co-pays.	Authorizes Commissioner of health to create a system to include co-payments billed to a Medicare Part D recipient towards the recipient's total annual Medicaid co-payments.	Passed Assembly Health Cmte, in Ways & Means. In Senate Health Cmte.
A6993-A Gottfried Family Health Care Decision Act	Establishes procedures for family members, surrogates, domestic partners, and others to make health care decisions for incapacitated patients – Not same as Senate bill.	Passed Assembly Health Cmte and Codes Cmte, in Rules. No Senate same as bill.
S5522 Hannon Family Health Care Decision Act	Establishes procedures for family members, surrogates, domestic partners, and others to make health care decisions for incapacitated patients – Not same as Senate bill.	In Senate Health Cmte. No Assembly same as bill
A2573/A7441 Grannis S3028 Seward Co-payments Can't Exceed Rx Retail Price	Prohibits health insurance companies, HMOs and health plans from charging co-payments higher than the cost for a prescription drug.	In Assembly Insurance Cmte, enacting clause stricken. In Senate Insurance Cmte.
A3683 Grannis EPIC Coverage in RHCF	Requires residential health care facilities to ensure residents enrolled in the EPIC program can use their EPIC coverage to pay for drugs dispensed to the resident by a health care facility.	In Assembly Aging, enacting clause stricken. No Senate same as bill.
Last year: A6399 Cook S781 Fuschillo Closed Block Medicare Ins. Program	Protects seniors from price gouging when they are enrolled in "closed block" Medicare supplemental insurance programs.	Not introduced yet.

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BILL NO./SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
A5178-A Koon S2644-A Seward EPIC Expansion to Persons with Disabilities	Expands EPIC program to include persons with disabilities who are eligible for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits.	Passed Assembly Aging, in Ways and Means. Passed Senate Aging, in Finance.
S522 Maziarz A897 Englebright Senior Vision Program	Establishes a senior vision services program in SOFA.	Passed Assembly and Senate. Signed by Governor Chap. 573 on 8/15/2007.
A7468 Gottfried S2971 Maziarz Rx Drug Manufacturers' Disclosure of Gifts	Requires pharmaceutical manufacturers to report gifts given to drug prescribers, and for the Commissioner to study and report on the data.	Passed Assembly. In Senate Rules.
S118 Golden A1654 Englebright Removes EPIC Marriage Penalty	Modifies EPIC eligibility standards to remove the marriage penalty for couples, including the way in which cost-of-living adjustments are calculated.	Passed Senate Aging Cmte, in Finance. In Assembly Health Cmte.
A6341 Gottfried S2642 Seward PBM Regulation	Regulates actions of Prescription Benefit Managers (PBM), requires them to perform their duties as fiduciaries	Passed Assembly. In Senate Rules.
Last year: A2518-A Grannis S2712-B Balboni Public Hearings: rate increases 5% or more	Requires Insurance Department to conduct hearings when HMOs, nonprofit insurers and Medigap plans request a rate increase of more than 5%.	Bill numbers not yet identified.
A4867 Gottfried Authorizes Medical Use of Marijuana	Authorizes medical treatment with inhaled marijuana for conditions where other treatments have proven ineffective and marijuana is effective. The bill contains safeguards against diversion of marijuana into illegal use.	Passed Assembly. In Senate Rules.
Last year: A4024 Grannis Conversion of Not-for-profit Health Insurance to For-profit	Establishes a process for not-for-profit health insurers to convert to for-profit companies and requires their charitable assets be used to improve patient care.	Bill numbers not yet identified.
A6119 Gottfried S1551 Hannon Safe Staffing for Quality Care Act	Requires acute care facilities to implement certain direct-care nurse to patient ratios in all nursing units; sets minimum staffing requirements; and provides other protections to assure safe staffing levels are maintained.	Passed Assembly Health Cmte and Codes Cmte, in Ways and Means. In Senate Health Cmte.
A1451 Englebright S499 Maziarz Alzheimer's & Dementia Care Disclosures	Requires any facility that advertises or markets itself as providing Alzheimer's and dementia special care must disclose the form of care or treatment.	In Assembly Aging Cmte. In Senate Health Cmte.
A899-A Englebright Alzheimer's & Dementia Council	Creates a coordinating council for services related to Alzheimer's disease and other dementia.	Passed Assembly Aging Cmte, in Ways & Means. Passed Senate Aging Cmte, in Finance.
S2448 Golden Alzheimer's & Dementia Council	Creates a coordinating council for services related to Alzheimer's disease and other dementia.	Passed Senate Aging, in Rules.

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LONG TERM CARE

A4149 Englebright S2451 Golden Alzheimer's Disease Outreach & Education	Establishes an Alzheimer's disease outreach and education program for medical and non-medical professionals and social services personnel who work with older New Yorkers and their families.	Passed Assembly Aging Cmte, in Ways & Means. Passed Senate Aging Cmte, in Finance.
A2974 & 3016 Gottfried Palliative Education and Training	Provides grants to medical schools for physician education and training in palliative care (pain management and end-of-life care); establishes centers of excellence.	2974 Passed Assembly Health Cmte, in Ways & Means. 3016 in Assembly Health Cmte. No Senate same as bill.
S116 Golden-A A8643-A Englebright Long Term Care Compact	Creates process for persons to use a portion of assets to purchase long-term care, after which the state picks-up coverage. The bill will preserve half of the assets for spouse and some for descendants.	Passed Senate Aging Cmte and Finance Cmte, in Rules. In Assembly Aging Cmte.

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LONG TERM CARE

BILL NO./SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
A3791 Gottfried Long Term Care Diversion	Diverts patients from long term care facilities that have insufficient staff to provide basic standards of care. Requires nursing homes to report to State Dept. of Health when cannot maintain basic standards for 48 hours.	Passed Assembly Health Cmte, in Ways & Means Cmte. No Senate same as bill.
A5196 Gottfried S1267 DeFrancisco Nursing Care Quality Protection Act	Requires facilities to disclose nursing quality indicators, requires Health Commissioner to issue regulations for reporting.	Passed Assembly. In Senate Health Cmte.
S457 Golden A1455 Englebright Consumer Directed Personal Assistance	Permits SOFA to contract for consumer directed personal assistance services through specific models.	In Senate Aging Cmte. Passed Assembly Aging Cmte and Codes Cmte, in Ways and Means.
A1469 Englebright Cash & Counseling Program	Establishes the cash and counseling program within the self-directed personal assistance services.	Passed Assembly. Passed Senate. Vetoed by Governor Memo 125, on 8/15/2007.
A1655 Englebright Enhanced Model Adult Day Care Services Demonstration	Allows appropriate social model adult day care programs and home care agencies to provide additional medical services to persons that would enable individuals to receive the most appropriate care in the most integrated and cost effective setting.	In Assembly Health Cmte. No Senate same as bill.
A7931 Gottfried Adult Home Reform	Creates a temporary advisory council on adult home reform; provides for penalties for adult homes and enriched housing programs or residences for adults; establishes community housing waiting lists; requires adult care facilities to report incidents to the Dept. of Health; requires a study of the adequacy of and accountability for supplemental security income, Medicaid and safety net assistance payments made to adult care facilities.	In Assembly Health Cmte. No Senate same as bill.

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LEGAL ISSUES

A965 Englebright S2033 Golden Grandparents & Other Relatives Caregiver Support	Creates a caregiver support program for grandparents and other older adult relative caregivers who are providing primary care for children aged 18 and under.	Passed Assembly. Passed Senate Aging Cmte, in Rules.
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CONSUMER PROTECTION

A8695 (Pheffer) S5952 (Rules) Pre-Need Funeral Insurance Sunset Act	Pre-Need Funeral Insurance Sunset Act prohibits funeral directors from selling pre-need funeral insurance policies until 2012.	Passed Senate and Assembly. Signed by Governor Chapter 78, on 6/18/2007.
A7821 Englebright S5713 Lavalle Unmarked Burial Site Protection Act	Protects unmarked burial sites of farm families, native Americans, African Americans, and others	In Assembly Corps. Cmte. In Senate Corps. Cmte.
A2030 O'Donnell S 3293 Flanagan	Would establish controls over wireless service providers to make using cell phones more understandable and effective for seniors.	Passed Assembly. In Senate Rules.
A3980-B Brodsky S5124 Leibell Telecommunications Reform Act	Would allow phone companies to sell TV service over their fiberoptic networks to state residents, including seniors using Telemedicine to buy their drugs.	Passed Assembly Corporations Cmte and Codes Cmte, in Ways and Means. In Senate Corporations Cmte.

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HOUSING		
BILL NO./SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
S459 Golden A1464 Englebright Caregivers Assistnce Act	Gives income tax credits and deductions, and real property tax exemption to certain persons who help seniors.	Passed Senate Investigations Cmte, in Finance. In Assembly Ways & Means.
A4989 Englebright S3720 Golden Age Integrated Comunities	Directs SOFA and the Dept. of State to model zoning and planning guidelines to foster age-integrated communities, and recommend to the governor and legislature how to assist mixed-use, age-integrated housing development and redevelopment.	Passed Assembly. In Senate Aging Cmte.
A828 Englebright Seniors' rent exemption & tax abatement	Permits municipalities to create senior citizen rent exemption and tax abatement program, so landlords reduce taxes and must pass savings along to seniors.	Passed Assembly Aging Cmte and Codes Cmte, in Ways and Means. No Senate same as bill.
A896 Englebright STAR tax relief for Snrs	Provides relief for seniors through the school tax relief (STAR) program.	Passed Assembly Aging Cmte, in Ways and Means.
SUPPORTED BY STATEWIDE		
EXPERIENCE WAVE		
A5565 Englebright S3058 Golden Mature Worker Task Force	Creates a mature worker task force in SOFA to identify statutory and regulatory provisions that may limit opportunities for mature workers, identify best practices in the private sector for hiring, retaining and retraining mature workers, serve as clearinghouse for such information and assess the effectiveness and cost of programs that the state has implemented.	Passed Assembly Aging Cmte, in Ways & Means. Passed Senate Aging Cmte, in Finance.
A947-A Englebright S3719 Golden Sr Volunteer / Real Property Tax (RPT) Abatement	Establishes a county real property tax abatement for residential real property owned by a person 65 years of age or older who is accepted to participate in volunteer programs.	Passed Senate. Passed Assembly Aging, in Ways & Means.
A5566 Englebright S3060 Golden Mature Worker Job Training Prgrm	Directs the director of SOFA to establish mature worker training programs for persons 55 or older who are seeking training to enable them to remain in or re-enter the work force; and provides for the awarding of grants to the providers of such programs	Passed Assembly. In Senate Rules.
A5567 Englebright S3061 Golden Mature Wrkr Biz Initiative	Establishes the mature worker business initiative within the state office of the aging to encourage businesses to recruit, retain and retrain mature workers.	Passed Assembly Aging Cmte, in Ways & Means. Passed Senate Aging Cmte, in Finance.
A5568 Englebright S3062 Golden Ctrs for Lifelong Learning	Provides for the establishment of life long learning centers within the state university to provide courses to persons 40 or older seeking to explore life options.	Passed Assembly Aging Cmte, in Ways & Means. In Senate Higher Education Cmte.
A5564 Englebright S3059 Golden Intergnratlional Mentoring	Establishes an intergenerational educational and mentoring service program in SOFA to utilize older adults' experience and wisdom to mentor and tutor students in elementary schools.	Passed Assembly Aging Cmte, in Ways & Means. Passed Senate Aging Cmte, in Finance.
A4820 McEnany S2510 Farley Adult Access to College Courses	Would allow adults 60 years or older to take SUNY courses without paying tuition - a similar bill would allow adults over 60 to audit CUNY courses.	Passed Senate. In Assembly Higher Education Cmte.
OPPOSED BY STATEWIDE		
CONSUMER PROTECTION		
A. 8042 Towns S. 5249 Winner Funeral Pkge Pricing Bill	Allows funeral homes to "package price" funerals; requires the Commissioner of Health to issue regulations permitting "alternative pricing methods." Currently, funeral homes are only allowed to use itemized prices, which is much stronger protection for seniors and	Passed Assembly Health Cmte, on Floor, Third Reading cal. 729. In Senate Health Cmte.
Last year: A4923 Carrozza Funeral Insurance Bill	Would permit funeral homes to market funeral insurance (life insurance policies) to pay for pre-need funeral arrangements, i.e. the funeral homes would become the beneficiaries of life insurance policies.	No bill identified yet.

BILLS OF INTEREST

HEALTH CARE

BILL NO./SUBJECT	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
A1562 Englebright EMS in Snr Living Sites	Requires all senior living facilities to employ an independent ambulance service for emergency medical services and transport.	In Assembly Aging Cmte. No Senate same as bill.
S2731 Seward Affordable Prescription Program	Establishes NY state affordable prescription program to provide Rx insurance coverage for persons enrolled in health maintenance organizations and non-profit medical indemnity or hospital service corporations.	In Senate Insurance Cmte. No Assembly same as bill.
A1648 Koon S582 Nozzolio Increase EPIC Eligibility Limits	Increases EPIC income eligibility limits to \$42,000 for single and \$65,000 for married couples.	In Assembly Aging Cmte. In Senate Aging Cmte.