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Residents to hop on bus to rally for senior rights

JOANNE BRATTON
Bulletin Staff Writer

A busload of area residents advocating legislation that will support senior citizens' rights soon will be heading to the state capitol.

About 50 Twin Lakes Area residents plan to take the AARP-sponsored trip to Little Rock on Wednesday to advocate legislative proposals about long-term healthcare and payday lending practices that would protect seniors.

Anyone interested in traveling to the state capitol to support legislation about senior citizens' rights may call Dale Larkin with the AARP Twin Lakes Chapter 529 at 425-7627. The free, all-day trip will begin at 7:30 a.m. Wednesday at the First Baptist Church parking lot off Club Boulevard.

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The legislative session begins Monday.

"So many seniors need representation," said Dr. Barbara Linde of Lakeview, who plans to make the trip. "We're letting legislators know we are interested in the legislation they will vote on for seniors. We want to let them know that seniors are active and concerned."

The payday lending bill was pre-filed by State

Sen. Shawn Womack (R-Mountain Home) and State Rep. David Johnson (D-Little Rock). If the bill passes, payday lenders and other institutions would be subject to fines for making high-interest consumer loans.

Womack maintained that many payday lenders charge more than 17 percent interest on loans, the maximum allowed by law.

The AARP, the Arkansas Trial Lawyers Association, Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families and the Family Council are among the organizations that support the bill.

Another bill affecting seniors would provide for options counseling, allowing seniors to have other options if they choose not to stay in a nursing home. The bill was pre-filed by Sandra Prater (D-Jacksonville).

After pre-filed bills pass through an assigned committee, they must be approved by the House and Senate before being signed into law by the governor.

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I agree - you need to learn how to read. You need to learn how to read between the lines as well. What I hear is that there are issues that affect all people of all ages in all walks and seasons of their