

Legislative Updates of interest for Higher Education Week of Feb. 2 - 6, 2009

Budget Update: The House Ways and Means Budget Subcommittees continued to meet during the week with focus on the Budget Proviso Subcommittee which considered Part 1B budget provisions. No substantive changes were made to provisos in the higher education sections. The Ways and Means Subcommittee for Higher Education, Technical and Cultural Resources met again on Wednesday and heard from the State Library. The full Ways and Means Committee will begin its deliberations in the upcoming week. The budget is expected to reach the House by the end of February and the House is expected to take up the budget during the week of March 2.

In the House –

Introduction of bills in the House concerning higher education included [H.3457](#) relating to the establishment of the Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College Enterprise Campus Authority which was introduced on Thursday and placed on the calendar without reference.

The Budget and Finance Subcommittee of House Ways and Means met on Thursday and took up several bills, one of which was H.3365, The Higher Education Efficiency and Administrative Policies Act. The text of the bill was introduced at the hearing as an amendment. A copy is available at from the General Assembly's website at <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/citizensinterestpage/Ways&MeansMeetingHandouts/xerox0209.pdf>. The legislation provides for regulatory reform for higher education institutions in the areas of human resources, facilities and capital expenditures, financing and administrative functions, procurement, and other operational provisions. The legislation was reviewed with the Committee by representatives from Clemson, USC and Coastal Carolina. The subcommittee deferred action until a later meeting to provide additional time for review of the legislation.

In the Senate –

The Senate met on Tuesday, February 3. Perfunctory session days were observed on Wednesday and Thursday with Committee meetings being held during the week. During the week, introduction of bills in the Senate relating to higher education included [S.377](#), which would require public institutions of higher education to develop a credit card marketing and solicitation policy that would be filed with the Commission on Higher Education and to prohibit those without an adopted policy from allowing a credit car marketer to distribute applications or promotional marketing materials, and [H.3316](#) relating to the establishment of the Aiken Technical College Enterprise Campus Authority. Both bills were referred to Senate Education. [S.4](#) to enact the S.C. Teacher Protection Act received its second reading. Also during the week, Senate Finance submitted a favorable report with amendment on [S.12](#) relating to the creation of a Tax Realignment Commission and Sales Tax Exemptions Review Committee.

*** Bill numbers are linked to the SC General Assembly page. The link should go to the most recent version of the bill.*

Reminder: The above report is not intended to be all inclusive. For additional information on legislation referenced above and other legislation relating to higher education, see CHE's website at <http://www.che.sc.gov/Home/CHELegislativeUpdates/LegislativeSession2009.aspx> Detailed information on the 2009 Session of the General Assembly may be access at www.scstatehouse.gov or from links included on CHE's website.