

## **Legislative Updates of interest for Higher Education Week of Feb. 9-13, 2009**

***Budget Update:*** The House Ways and Means Committee began its work on the budget. However, the Committee delayed considering budget recommendations until the upcoming week.

***In the House –***

A bill, [H.3469](#) relating to a provision that would enable state scholarships to be used at institutions outside of South Carolina, was introduced in the House and referred to the House Ways and Means Committee. By the end of the week, [H.3457](#) relating to the establishment of the Orangeburg Calhoun Technical College Enterprise Campus Authority was approved by the House and sent to the Senate where it was received and referred to the Senate Education Committee.

On Tuesday, the House Ways and Means Committee took up [H.3378](#) relating to agency flexibility in regard to mandatory furloughs. Ways and Means gave the bill a favorable report and by Friday, the House had approved the bill and sent it to the Senate for consideration.

***In the Senate –***

[S.404](#) which would enable free tuition for teachers and administrators employed by SC school districts who are pursuing graduate degrees in education and school administration was introduced in the Senate and referred to Senate Education.

On Wednesday, the Higher Education Subcommittee of Senate Education met and considered several bills including: [S.19](#) relating to police and security departments of private colleges, [S.97](#) relating to changes to the Central Carolina Technical College Commission, and [S.133](#) relating to free tuition for state employees. S.97 and S.19 were given favorable reports. S.133 received an unfavorable report.

***Other –*** On Monday, the Board of Economic Advisors (BEA) held its regularly scheduled meeting at which official estimates for FY 2009-10 were considered. The BEA first reviewed its estimates for the current year (FY 2008-09). Changes were not adopted but it was noted that if the situation did not improve there could be further reductions in the current year. The BEA reduced its preliminary estimates for next year (FY 2009-10) by 3% to a level that approximates where the state was in FY 2004-05. The BEA did not make any changes to estimates for the SC Education Lottery revenues since the lottery continues to perform in-line with the BEA's preliminary estimates for FY 2009-10 which were approximately level with FY 2008-09 expectations.

***\*\* 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](http://www.scstatehouse.gov) or from links included on CHE's website.***

