

## **Legislative Updates of interest for Higher Education Week of Jan. 26 – 30, 2009**

***Budget Update:*** The House Ways and Means Budget Subcommittees continued to meet during the week. The Ways and Means Subcommittee for Higher Education, Technical and Cultural Resources heard from the Medical University of South Carolina, Area Health Education Consortium (AHEC) and cultural agencies on Tuesday and from SC State University, Francis Marion, and the College of Charleston on Wednesday. In the upcoming week, the Ways and Means Proviso Subcommittee is scheduled to meet on February 3. The full Ways and Means Committee is expected to begin its deliberations during the week of February 9. The House is expected to take up the budget during the week of March 2.

### ***In the House –***

By the end of the week, [H.3316](#) relating to the establishment of the Aiken Technical College Enterprise Campus Authority received third reading and was sent to the Senate. Two pieces of legislation relating to higher education were introduced and referred to the Ways and Means Committee including: [H.3345](#) relating to the Centers of Excellence Matching Endowment and [H.3365](#), The Higher Education Efficiency and Administrative Policies Act.

### ***In the Senate –***

On Wednesday, the Senate Education Committee held its first meeting at which Dr. Jim Rex, Superintendent of Education, and Dr. Barry Russell, Executive Director of the State Technical College System, made presentations to the Committee. Senate Finance also met during the week and heard from Dr. Bill Gillespie, the State's Chief Economist. The Finance Committee also began discussion of bills that would create a tax commission to study the state's tax system ([S.12](#) and [S.182](#)). Senate Judiciary gave favorable report to [S.1](#) proposing a Constitutional amendment to impose limitations on annual appropriation of state general fund revenues and create a budget stabilization fund for revenue exceeding limitations and to [S.4](#), The Teacher Protection Act of 2009 which amends existing provisions to enable a teacher (including college and university personnel) to bring a civil action against a student who commits a criminal offense against the teacher and to define penalties for a student committing assault and battery against a teacher or person affiliated with the school in an official capacity. Bills introduced relating to higher education included [S.303](#) relating to the creation of the Aiken Technical College Enterprise Campus Authority and [S.347](#) which among other provisions would make it lawful for those with concealed weapons permits to carry a weapon on campus when the weapon remains inside an attended or locked motor vehicle. Upon adjournment on Thursday, the Senate adopted a motion to hold session in the upcoming week only on Tuesday, February 3.

### ***Other –***

CHE Regulations for LIFE and LIFE Enhancements ([Document #4031](#)), Need-based Grants ([Document #4032](#)), Palmetto Fellows and Palmetto Fellows Enhancements ([Document #4033](#)) and Residency for Tuition and Fee Purposes ([Document #4034](#)) were received by the Senate and House and referred to the Senate Education and House Ways and Means Committees. The General Assembly review period for these regulations expires May 22, 2009.

*\*\* 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.*