

Legislative Updates of Interest for Higher Education Week of May 4 – May 8, 2009

Budget Update –

Last week, the Senate approved recommendations for the state's budget and returned the bill to the House. The House did not meet during the week, and further action on the budget is not expected until next week when the House returns. Last week's update included a summary of Senate recommendations and is available at

http://www.che.sc.gov/CHE_Docs/InfoCntr/Legis/LegisUpdate_Apr27toMay1_09.pdf. For the weekly update relating to the recommendations as passed by the House, see the report from the week of March 9th which is available at

http://www.che.sc.gov/CHE_Docs/InfoCntr/Legis/LegisUpdate_Mar9toMar13_09.pdf.

Copies of the budget as passed by the Senate and House are available on the General Assembly's website at http://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess118_2009-2010/appropriations2009/gab3560.htm

When the House returns next week, it has an opportunity to make additional amendments to the budget. If differences remain between the House and Senate budget recommendations, the budget will be sent to Conference Committee so that differences may be worked out before the budget is finalized and sent to the Governor. Once the Governor receives the budget, he has five days to act by signing the budget into law, issuing vetoes, or letting it take effect without his signature.

In the House –

The House was on furlough and did not meet during the week. The House will meet next on Tuesday, May 12, 2009.

In the Senate –

On Wednesday, [S.789](#), was introduced and referred to the Senate Education Committee. This bill, if enacted, would require each public institution of higher learning to maintain a transaction register that includes a complete record of all funds expended over one hundred dollars, from whatever source for whatever purpose, and to post the information online. Additionally, it would require public institutions of higher learning to post online a copy of each monthly statement for all of the credit cards maintained by the institution, including credit cards issued to its officers or employees for official use.

On Thursday, [H.3365](#), the Higher Education Administrative Policies Act, was recalled from Senate Finance and committed to Senate Education. The Senate amended and then adopted [H.4000](#), a concurrent resolution that would provide for the end of the 2009 session sine die on May 21 with provisions that would enable the General Assembly to reconvene for no more than three days as agreed to by the House and Senate for consideration of those items as specified in the resolution. Also on Thursday, the Senate confirmed the initial appointment of Mr. Guy Tarrant of Charleston to an at-large statewide seat on the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education.

Other –

The Governor signed into law on May 6, [H.3378](#), relating to mandatory furlough provisions for state agencies. [S.97](#), relating to members of the Central Carolina Technical College Board, became law on May 7 without the signature of the Governor.

NOTE:

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

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.