

# STATE SCHOLARSHIPS and GRANTS REGULATION WORKSHOP



**COMMISSION ON  
HIGHER EDUCATION**

# Agenda

- **Legislative Updates**
- **Summary of Approved Changes to Scholarship Regulations**
- **Palmetto Fellows Updates**
- **High School Transcript Issues**

# Legislative Updates

- **S 0632 General Bill, By Ford**

A BILL TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 59-101-440 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT NO MORE THAN TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THE ENTERING CLASS OF A PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING OF THIS STATE MAY BE COMPRISED OF STUDENTS WHO RESIDE OUTSIDE THE STATE, AND TO EXCLUDE TECHNICAL COLLEGES FROM THIS PROVISION.

03/01/11 Senate Referred to Committee on Education

**STATUS: Still in Committee**

# Legislative Updates

- **S 0575 General Bill, By Massey**

A BILL TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 59-101-35 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT A SOUTH CAROLINA RESIDENT WHO OTHERWISE QUALIFIES FOR THE LIFE, HOPE, OR PALMETTO FELLOWS SCHOLARSHIP BUT WHO ATTENDS SCHOOL IN ANOTHER STATE BECAUSE NO PUBLIC COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY OFFERS HIS CHOSEN MAJOR SHALL RECEIVE THE SCHOLARSHIP FOR WHICH HE QUALIFIES TO BE USED FOR PAYMENT OF TUITION AT THE OUT-OF-STATE INSTITUTION.

02/16/11 Senate Referred to Committee on Education

**STATUS: Still in Committee**

# Legislative Updates

- **S 0729 General Bill, By Rose**

A BILL TO AMEND CHAPTER 112, TITLE 59 OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO TUITION AND FEES FOR STATE POST-SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, BY ADDING SECTION 59-112-140 TO REQUIRE ALL REVENUE FROM OUT-OF-STATE TUITION IN EXCESS OF IN-STATE TUITION RATES TO BE REMITTED TO THE STATE'S GENERAL FUND.

03/24/11 Senate Referred to Committee on Finance  
STATUS: Still in Committee

# Legislative Updates

- **H 3429 General Bill, By Merrill, Bingham, Frye, Spires, Brannon, Parker, V.S. Moss, Bales, Hearn, Horne, Jefferson, Murphy, Sandifer, Sottile, Tallon, Williams and Willis**

A BILL TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 59-112-25 SO AS TO PROVIDE THAT A STUDENT WHO IS NOT DOMICILED IN SOUTH CAROLINA AND WHO HAS NOT BEEN GRANTED AN OUT-OF-STATE TUITION RATE WAIVER SHALL COMMIT TO PAYING THE OUT-OF-STATE TUITION RATE FOR FOUR YEARS BEFORE HE MAY BE ACCEPTED TO A PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING.

01/25/11 House Referred to Committee on Ways and Means

STATUS: Still in Committee

# Legislative Updates

- **H 3558 General Bill, By J.E. Smith**

A BILL TO AMEND THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, BY ADDING SECTION 25-1-2270 SO AS TO REQUIRE ALL STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO ALLOW STUDENTS TO COMPLETE ASSIGNMENTS OR TAKE MAKE-UP EXAMINATIONS WHEN AN ABSENCE IS CAUSED BY ATTENDING OR PARTICIPATING IN MILITARY SERVICE, DUTY, TRAINING, OR DISASTER RELIEF EFFORTS.

02/02/11 House Referred to Committee on Education and Public Works

STATUS: Still in Committee

# Summary of Approved Changes to Scholarship Regulations

- **Promotional Branding Language**

Independent and public institutions of higher learning in this or any other state in the U.S., outside the U.S. or abroad are prohibited from using state scholarships and grants in programs that promote financial aid incentives or packages. **Any mention of state scholarships and grants in these financial aid packages must indicate the scholarship/grant to be separate from the promotional financial aid package,** and reference the state scholarship or grant as a separate financial aid award, provided to the student by the State of South Carolina.

# Summary of Approved Changes to Scholarship Regulations

## Palmetto Fellows Scholarship & Scholarship Enhancement:

- **Four-year language – Students must attend a four year institution.**

# Summary of Approved Changes to the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Regulations

**“Continuously enrolled”** defined as **enrollment without an interruption that would require the student to pursue a formal process of readmission to that institution.** Formal petitions or applications for change of degree level shall be considered readmissions with the exception of students changing degree level within the programs cited in paragraphs L and HH of this section and students who have been granted preapproved leave status for no longer than one semester by their institution.

**Continuously enrolled includes summer terms, military mobilization, or students who transfer from a four-year institution only to return to a four-year institution. Students who are enrolled in internships, cooperative work programs, travel study programs, or National or International Exchange Programs that are approved by the home institution are considered continuously enrolled.** Any student who has been **suspended, expelled, does not attend subsequent (or consecutive semesters) that does not require a formal process of readmission to that institution, or voluntarily withdraws from a four-year institution and/or enrolls at a two-year institution during the interruption is considered to be no longer continuously enrolled.**

# Summary of Approved Changes to Scholarship Regulations

## LIFE Scholarship & Scholarship Enhancement

- Remediation
- Awarding LIFE Enhancement to students who begin college with a spring term initial college enrollment
- Mid-year non-qualifiers

# Summary of Approved Changes to Scholarship Regulations

## LIFE Scholarship & Scholarship Enhancement

Remediation - 62-1200.10. Student Eligibility: LIFE Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship Enhancement.

- I. Credit hours earned during the student's first two term(s) of remedial/developmental enrollment will not be used to determine remaining Scholarship eligibility at the completion of remediation unless the student has completed at least twelve credit hours of non-remedial/developmental coursework each term of enrollment. First-time entering freshmen attending an eligible two-year institution or technical college who enroll in fewer than twelve credit hours of non-remedial/developmental, including at least three hours of remedial/developmental courses during the first term(s) will not be eligible for Scholarship funds during this period. The student's initial college enrollment will begin after a maximum of two terms of remediation at an eligible two-year or technical college only...."

# Summary of Approved Changes to Scholarship Regulations

## LIFE Scholarship & Scholarship Enhancement

- Awarding LIFE Enhancement to students who begin college with a spring term initial college enrollment

## 62-1200.10 Student Eligibility: LIFE Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship Enhancement

P. The LIFE Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship Enhancement are to be annual awards. Half of the Scholarship and Enhancement funds are to be disbursed in the fall and half are to be disbursed in the spring. In the cases where students who initially enroll in college mid-year (i.e., spring term) as a freshman and meet the requirements under Sections 62-1200.10 (O) and 62-1200.15 (C), such student shall be awarded the LIFE Scholarship Enhancement one year after initial college enrollment (i.e., spring term)..."

# Summary of Approved Changes to Scholarship Regulations

## LIFE Scholarship & Scholarship Enhancement

- Mid-year non-qualifiers
  - Students who begin college mid-year and are ineligible to receive the LIFE Scholarship may receive the award no earlier than their third term of enrollment.
  - The student must have earned at least a 3.0 LIFE GPA and 45 earned credit hours by the end of their third term of enrollment

# Summary of Approved Changes to Scholarship Regulations

## SC HOPE Scholarship

- **GED Clarification – Students who earn a GED are not eligible to receive the SC HOPE Scholarship.**

# Summary of Approved Changes to LTAP Regulations

## 62-900.165. Student Eligibility (F)

### Remediation

F. While the student is taking remedial/developmental coursework, an exception to the initial college enrollment applies only to first-time freshmen who met the eligibility requirements for the LIFE Scholarship upon graduation from high school, are enrolled in less than 12 credit hours of non-remedial coursework at an eligible two-year or technical college and taking a minimum of six credit hours of remedial/developmental education coursework during the term may be eligible to receive Lottery Tuition Assistance for the fall and/or spring terms only of their first academic year. First-time freshmen who are eligible for the LIFE Scholarship, attending an eligible two-year or technical college and enrolled in a minimum of 12 credit hours of non-remedial coursework shall receive the LIFE Scholarship. Once a student is awarded the LIFE Scholarship, they are no longer eligible to receive LTAP during the same academic year. See Section 62-1200.10 (I) of the LIFE Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship Enhancement Regulation.

# What Does This Mean?



- This is a clarification that LTAP funding and the LIFE Scholarship can be awarded in the same academic year IF the student is a first-time freshmen attending a two-year institution who met the eligibility requirements for the LIFE Scholarship and is taking a minimum of six remedial/developmental credit hours.
- Once the student receives the LIFE Scholarship, the student cannot receive LTAP in the same academic year.

# Summary of Approved Changes to LTAP Regulations

“Satisfactory academic progress” shall mean the minimum academic standard for academic progress established by the institution for the purpose of complying with Title IV regulations for federal student aid programs and for State scholarship and grants.

## 62-900.165. Student Eligibility B.

Students shall not be eligible to receive Lottery Tuition Assistance for more than one certificate, diploma, or degree earned within any five-year period unless the additional certificate, diploma, or degree constitutes progress in the same field of study. Students must be making satisfactory academic progress towards completion of the requirements of the program as provided by Title IV Regulations.

# Summary of Approved Changes to SC Need-based Grant Regulations

## ○ 62-465. 9. Student Eligibility

Students who have previously earned credit hours and are applying for the South Carolina Need-based Grant for the first time must have earned at least a cumulative 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale for graduation purposes at the end of the academic year before being awarded the Grant.

# Issues with High School Transcripts

## **ALL transcripts must identify SCUGP GPA**

Since all state scholarships and grants are based on the SC UGP, **all transcripts must specifically state “SC UGP.”** Any transcript that states, “Weighted and Unweighted GPA” OR “Total GPA” will not be accepted for the purposes of awarding state scholarships as it must comply with the SC UGP.

# Issues with SC Public High School Transcripts

## **SC Public High Schools - PowerSchool**

- All final transcripts must be dated/calculated between the date of the high school graduation (May-June) and no later than June 15<sup>th</sup>.
- The final grades/ranking cannot include grades earned after the official graduation date of the school year. Summer school grades earned after high school graduation cannot be used in the calculation. The final, official transcript must be in compliance with the policies set forth by the SC Department of Education. According to the SCDE, final transcripts must not state “Work In Progress.” In addition, the heading of the final transcript must state:

**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
STANDARD HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT**

# Issues

- **Out-of-state schools must comply with SCUGP GPA reporting and ranking.**
  - GPA Conversion to SCUGP must be attached to transcript
  - If using rank, the entire class must be converted to the SCUGP and a ranking report must be included.
- **Home school Associations - Ranking:**
  - Must use the entire class for ranking purposes. If the entire class is not included when calculating class rank, then rank CANNOT be considered.
  - Must provide a ranking report.

# Issues

- **Ranking:**
  - If a high school does not use rank as a policy or does not list rank on the transcript, rank CANNOT be used.
  
- **SC Public High School PowerSchool Transcripts:**
  - Transcript questions must be directed to Louise Amos [lamos@ed.sc.gov](mailto:lamos@ed.sc.gov) of the SC Department of Education

# Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Website

- <https://connect.che.sc.gov/NationalGuard/SCN GCAP/default.asp>
- Conditional Palmetto Fellows Listing for Late Awards – end of July
  - Marketing Purposes
  - Institutional Listing
  - If student does not have your institutional code, have the student contact CHE.
- Renewal Reports – mid/late August

# Palmetto Fellows Scholarship Application

- New application process which was piloted for the late award application.
- **ONLY** the guidance counselor completes the electronic application
- Students are notified by e-mail that their guidance counselor has created an application account and also notified when the application was complete.
- Students must sign the Certification and Authorization form upon application

# Commission on Higher Education

## Contact Information

- **Dr. Karen Woodfaulk, Director of Student Services, Palmetto Fellows Scholarship, SC Need-based Grant & Lottery Tuition Assistance Program Manager**  
Office 803-737-2244, Email [kwoodfaulk@che.sc.gov](mailto:kwoodfaulk@che.sc.gov)
- **Gerrick Hampton, LIFE and SC HOPE Scholarships, and SC Residency Program Manager**  
Office 803-734-4397, Email [ghampton@che.sc.gov](mailto:ghampton@che.sc.gov)

# Questions

