

Legislative Updates of interest for Higher Education: Week of May 11-15, 2015

(Highlighted & bolded text is linked to source. Bill numbers go to the most recent version on the SC General Assembly website, www.scstatehouse.gov. This report is not intended to be all inclusive. For additional information on the 2015 session, see SC General Assembly website. For information reports on CHE's website, [Click Here](#))

In the House

- On Tuesday, a subcommittee of Ways and Means considered [H.4145](#), which creates a Coordinating Council for Workforce Development and provides for related workforce training and education planning, programs and initiatives, and passed the bill out favorably with subcommittee members indicating that amendments may be proposed at the full Committee hearing.
- On Tuesday, the K-12 Subcommittee of House Education and Public Works met and among bills considered was [S.437](#), James B. Edwards Civics Education Initiative. The bill adds provisions to requirements for K-12 students with respect to taking the examination used by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and also includes provisions relating to the use of the examination by higher education institutions in complying with §59-29-120. S.437 remained in subcommittee.
- On Wednesday, the Higher Education Subcommittee of House Education and Public Works met and considered [S.261](#) which amends statutory provisions free tuition for those 60 years old and over so as to delete the requirement that participants must not be full-time employed. The bill was reported out favorably without any amendments. Later the same day, the full House Education and Public Works Committee met and reported the bill out of Committee for consideration of the House.

Other House Legislation during the week

- [S.47](#) relating to the use of body cameras by SC law enforcement was amended by the House, given third reading, and returned to the Senate.

In the Senate

- **Budget Update:** The FY 2015-16 General Appropriations Bill ([H.3701](#)) had been returned to the House last week with amendments. The budget bill awaits consideration of the House which may further amend the bill before returning it to the Senate. Assuming differences remain upon consideration of the House, the bill will be sent to conference committee to resolve differences before being approved and sent to the Governor. ([Click Here](#) to access information on H.3701).
The Capital Reserve Fund Bill ([H.3702](#)) remains on the Senate Calendar awaiting consideration. The bill had been previously amended to delete the Bond Bill section which had been ruled out of order.
[S.657](#), which is a Bond Bill that includes provisions previously recommended by Senate Finance as part of H.3702, was received from Senate Finance and placed on the Senate Calendar where it awaits consideration.
- Senate Education met on Wednesday. At the top of the agenda, the Committee was briefed on the [Competing Through Knowledge](#) initiative by the Honorable Jim Hodges, former Governor of SC, and Ken Wingate, former State Treasurer. The archived video of the meeting may be viewed at <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/video/videofeed.php> (Select Wednesday, May 13, 2015, 10:00 am Senate Education Committee -- Education Committee)

Other Senate Legislation during the week.

- [H.3847](#), a Joint Resolution to provide for a temporary exemption for applicants for licensure as a speech-language pathologist assistant from the requirement of having a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution, was amended, given third reading and returned to the House where it awaits consideration.
- [H.3151](#) relating to the teaching of foundation documents by public colleges and universities was received from the House and referred to Senate Education.
- [H.4135](#) relating to the makeup and provisions for the Greenville Technical College Area Commission was received from the House and referred to Senate Education.

Other

- In accord with [H.3663](#), all seven appointments were made to the new interim SC State University Board of Trustees by the end of the week as required. For an AP article on the appointments: [Click Here](#).
- [S.11](#) relating to FOIA and open meeting requirements is in conference committee to resolve differences. Senate conferees are Gregory, Campsen and Johnson. House conferees are Newton, Taylor and Norrell.