

Legislative Updates of interest for Higher Education: Week of Jan 25-29, 2016

(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 2016 session, see SC General Assembly website. For information reports on CHE's website, [Click Here](#))

In the House

- On Wednesday, the Higher Education Subcommittee of the House Higher Education and Public Works met and took up [H.4514](#) relating to residency for tuition and fee purposes for US citizen students with undocumented parents and [H.4515](#) relating to SC resident tuition and fees for certain non-resident veterans and dependents.
 - The subcommittee adjourned debate on **H.4514** leaving the bill in subcommittee.
 - The subcommittee passed out **H.4515** favorably, with an amendment to provide clarification of the bill as introduced, for full consideration of the House Education and Public Works Committee. H.4515 would amend a provision added last session through [Act 11 of 2015](#) to provide in-state tuition and fees for certain eligible non-resident veterans and dependents. H.4515 would amend current provisions to provide that those covered individuals receiving transferred benefits would not be subject to eligibility considerations relating to enrollment within three years of the veterans discharge date or discharge status of the veteran.
- House Ways and Means Budget Higher Education and Technical College Budget Subcommittee continued its meetings during the week and heard from MUSC and SC State University. The subcommittee is chaired by [Rep. Jim Merrill](#) who is joined on the subcommittee by Reps. [Gilda Cobb-Hunter](#) and [Phillip Lowe](#).
- [H.4145](#), relating to the establishment of a Coordinating Council for Workforce Development, an education pathways initiative, tax credits for apprenticeships, and workforce scholarships and grants was considered by the House on Wednesday. The bill was amended, given second reading, and, on Thursday, was given third reading and sent to the Senate. Prior to the House Session on Wednesday, a press conference on H.4145 was held by Governor Haley, House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Brian White, and Superintendent of Education, Molly Spearman. A video of the press conference is available at <https://goo.gl/V5Ely4>
- Several bills were introduced relating to K-12 education and referred to committee for consideration: [H.4776](#), SC Education Facility Act (referred to Ways & Means); [H.4781](#) relating to the establishment of SC Education and Economic Development Council to include representation from higher education (referred to Ways & Means); [H.4782](#) to require the State Department of Education and CERRA in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education to conduct a survey of students on teaching in rural underserved districts (referred to House Education & Public Works); and [H.4783](#) relating to the adoption of principles of SC Profile of the High School Graduate published by *TransformSC* as standards and measures of achievement goals for the state's high school students (referred to House Education & Public Works).

In the Senate

- [H.4145](#) (see above) was introduced in the Senate on Thursday and referred to the Committee on Labor, Commerce and Industry for consideration.
- [S.589](#) relating to the establishment of Music Therapist Practice Act was reported out of the Senate Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee favorably with amendment and placed on the Senate Calendar for consideration.

Other

- [H.4632](#) a Joint Resolution, to revise applicability of certain student assessment statutes for the 2015-2016 school year and 2016-2017 school year, and to exempt the State Department of Education from state procurement law for certain assessments in the 2015-2016 school year, was ratified on Tuesday and sent to the Governor for consideration.