5A.28  (CHE: Higher Education Task Force) The funds appropriated to the Commission on Higher Education for the Task Force on Higher Education Study Committee shall be utilized to establish the Higher Education Task Force whose mission shall be "to develop and recommend an evolving, multi-year statewide strategic plan for higher education in South Carolina to meet the needs of the state as can be addressed by higher education."

The task force shall consist of nine members appointed as follows: three by the Governor, one by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, one by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, one by the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, one by the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, one by the Chairman of the Senate Education Committee, and one by the Chairman of the House Education and Public Works Committee. The members appointed shall include persons knowledgeable in issues involving higher education to include, but not be limited to, higher education officials, K-12 education officials, and members of the business community. The task force shall elect its chairman from among its appointed members.

The task force shall review the current higher education mission and goals as set forth in Section 59-103-15 of the 1976 Code, taking into consideration the areas identified by the Governor's Task Force on Higher Education in their final report issued September 28, 2006, and shall also review all state supported higher education scholarship and grant programs.

Upon completion of the review the task force shall develop and recommend a Statewide Higher Education Strategic Plan which shall include, but not be limited to, the following five aspects of higher education as recommended by the Governor's Task Force on Higher Education's final report

1)  Institutional Missions and Academic Programs and Planning;
2)  Enrollment;
3)  Funding and Institutional Cost;
4)  Buildings, Facilities, and Information Technology; and
5)  Organization and Plan Implementation.

The Plan shall also include recommendations for all state supported higher education scholarship and grant programs whether funded through the Education Lottery Account or through the State General Fund.

The task force shall submit recommendations for the Higher Education Statewide Strategic Plan to the General Assembly by February 1, 2008  September 15, 2008.

*Rev. per Joint Resolution S.1034 enacted February 21, 2008. To be included in FY 09 budget as Proviso 6.27 (as of 5/14/08, same in both House and Senate versions)