

Legislative Updates of interest for Higher Education
Week of April 16 – April 20, 2007

In the House –

On Tuesday, House Education and Public Works met. The Committee voted to report out to the House favorably with amendments H.3394 to enact the Spartanburg Community College Enterprise Campus Authority Act. Later in the week, H.3394 received its second and third readings and was sent to the Senate. S.451 relating to athletic facilities revenue bond limits for USC and Clemson was also reported out favorably and later in the week received its second and third readings and was enrolled for ratification. On Wednesday, favorable reports were received from Ways and Means on several bills including: H.3495 relating to agency head salary commission and inclusion of technical college presidents, S.321 relating to use of bond funds posted by nonpublic postsecondary institutions, and S.243 relating to the hydrogen infrastructure development fund.

In the Senate –

The budget bill (H.3620) and capital reserve bill (H.3621) were reported out to the Senate on Wednesday and are expected to be taken up during the week of April 23. A copy of the full budget as reported by Senate Finance is available at http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess117_2007-2008/appropriations2007/sf07ndx.htm. See last week's legislative update, April 9 - 13, for a summary report on the recommendations for higher education. Also on Wednesday, full Senate Education met. The Committee voted to report out favorably S.341 relating to free tuition for eligible children of active duty veterans who had received a Purple Heart, Congressional Medal of Honor, or were missing in action. Chairman Courson announced at the meeting that in light of the tragedy at Virginia Tech, the full Committee would plan to meet in August to review campus safety issues with the colleges and universities. He indicated that appropriate law enforcement agencies, higher education presidents, and the executive directors of the Commission on Higher Education and State Board for Technical College Education would be notified shortly of the Committee's plans in this regard.

to SC's Legislative Website and other relevant information is also available on CHE's website at <http://www.che.sc.gov/Home/CHELegislativeUpdates/LegislativeSession2007.aspx>