

**Legislative Updates of interest for Higher Education**  
**Week of April 23 – April 27, 2007**

***In the House –***

During the week, H.3495 relating to agency head salary commission and inclusion of technical college presidents received third reading and was sent to the Senate where it was introduced and referred to Senate Finance. S.321 relating to use of bond funds posted by nonpublic postsecondary institutions received its second reading. S.451 relating to athletic facilities revenue bond limits for USC and Clemson received third reading and was ratified. The bill now awaits action by the Governor. Debate was adjourned and set for consideration on May 2 on S.243 relating to the hydrogen infrastructure development fund. A bill, H.3964, was introduced to add provision enabling concealable weapons permit holders to carry weapons while on the premises of a public educational institution and amends current provisions relating to the issuance of concealed weapons permits to remove the restriction placed upon carrying a concealable weapon into a school or college event.

***In the Senate –***

The majority of the Senate's work during the week focused on the budget bill (H.3620) and capital reserve bill (H.3621). There were very few amendments relating to higher education. Of note, a proviso, 5A.28, was added to establish a higher education study committee. The study committee will have three appointments each from the House, Senate and Governor with the chair selected from among the appointed members. The committee is directed by February 1, 2008, to take into consideration the final report of the Governor's Task Force, make recommendations on mission and goals for higher education, scholarship programs and a statewide strategic plan. The budget will be returned to the House, and Conference Committee deliberations are expected by mid-May. The Senate also added a provision that will provide Clinton Jr. College \$250,000 in lottery funds and amended funding in the supplemental proviso 73.12 provided for University Center of Greenville, Greenville Technical College, Clemson deferred maintenance, USC Gibbes Green renovation and the Charleston Transition College which was renamed College Transition Connection. A copy of the full budget as adopted by the Senate is available on-line at [http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess117\\_2007-2008/appropriations2007/sp07ndx.htm](http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess117_2007-2008/appropriations2007/sp07ndx.htm). See the CHE legislative update for the week of April 9 – 13 at [http://www.che.sc.gov/CHE\\_Docs/InfoCntr/Legis/LegisUpdate\\_Apr9toApr13.pdf](http://www.che.sc.gov/CHE_Docs/InfoCntr/Legis/LegisUpdate_Apr9toApr13.pdf) for a summary report on the major recommendations for higher education.

In regard to other legislation, the Senate received favorable reports from Senate Education on 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 and on S.484 relating to tuition grants program and adding Bob Jones University as an eligible institution. By the end of the week, S.484 received third reading and was sent to the House. A bill amending board membership for Winthrop University to provide for two additional at-large members also received third reading and was sent to the House. Legislation amending certain provisions relating to the Trident Technical College Enterprise Campus was introduced and referred to Senate Education.

*Reminder: Additional information on legislation referenced above and other legislation relating to higher education is available on CHE's website at [http://www.che.sc.gov/CHE\\_Docs/InfoCntr/Legis/HigherEd\\_Legis\\_List.xls](http://www.che.sc.gov/CHE_Docs/InfoCntr/Legis/HigherEd_Legis_List.xls) Links*

*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>*