

**Legislative Updates of interest for Higher Education**  
**Week of April 30 – May 4, 2007**

***In the House –***

*In committee:* A subcommittee of Ways and Means (General Government, Personnel and Benefits) took up several higher education bills on Wednesday including: H.3098 relating to the lottery tuition assistance program and awards for the students residing in a facility maintained by the institution; S.322 that creates a college tuition assistance program for National Guard members and closes the National Guard Loan Repayment program to new participants, and S.484 relating to the S.C. Tuition Grants program and the addition of Bob Jones University as an eligible institution. The subcommittee adjourned debate on H.3098 and S.484 and voted to give a favorable report to the full committee on S.322. *On the floor:* S.321 relating to use of bond funds posted by nonpublic postsecondary institutions received its third reading and was enrolled for ratification. S.243 relating to the hydrogen infrastructure development fund also received its third reading by the House and was returned to the Senate with amendments. The Senate returned the budget and capital reserve bills (H.3620 and H. 3621) to the House, and the House adjourned debate until Tuesday, May 8. Legislation was introduced relating to a change in the statute for the Coastal Carolina University Board of Trustees (H.4020) and relating to Horry County Higher Education Commission (H.4029). Both bills were initially referred to Ways and Means, but were later recalled from the Committee.

***In the Senate –***

On Tuesday, Senate Judiciary met and voted to amend and report favorably S.328, a bill that would make it unlawful to make or use falsified degrees. The Senate received the Committee report on S.328 on Wednesday. Full Senate Education met on Wednesday and voted to report out S.657 to enact the S.C. Critical Needs Nursing Initiative Act. By the end of the week, S.657 had received third reading and was sent to the House. This legislation contains provisions to increase the availability of nurses by providing for the enhancement of nursing faculty salaries, the addition of new nursing faculty, scholarships/loans/grants for students pursuing nursing faculty positions, an office for health care workforce research, and simulation technology for nursing instruction. Additionally, the Education Committee voted to report out favorably H. 3476 relating to an alternative teacher certification route for teachers. The Senate received the Committee report on H.3476 on Thursday. Also on Thursday, the Senate voted to override the Governor's veto of S.451 relating to athletic facilities revenue bond limits for USC and Clemson. The House must also consider and override the Governor's veto if the legislation is to be enacted. Also during the week, H.3394, to enact the Spartanburg Community College Enterprise Campus Authority Act, was received by the Senate and sent to the Education Committee.

*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/Legisl/HigherEd\\_Legis\\_List.xls](http://www.che.sc.gov/CHE_Docs/InfoCntr/Legisl/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>*