

Legislative Updates of Interest for Higher Education - Week of Feb. 15 - 19, 2010

(Yellow highlighted text is hot-linked to source.)

In the House –

The following bills were introduced:

[H.4546](#), which was referred to House Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee, would create a pilot program that would enable certain professional and occupational licensing boards to become separate and distinct individual state agencies.

[S.897](#), which was received from the Senate and referred to House Judiciary, would create the Commission on Streamlining Government and Reduction of Waste to examine each agency's constitutional and statutory activities, functions, programs, services, powers, duties, and responsibilities to determine, in an effort to reduce the size of state government, which of these activities, functions, programs, services, powers, duties, and responsibilities may be eliminated, streamlined, consolidated, privatized, or outsourced. Higher education agencies and entities are exempted from consideration under this legislation.

[S.1085](#), which was received from the Senate and referred to House Ways and Means, would provide for amendments to the state code and constitution with regard to provisions for the state's General Reserve Fund.

[H.4564](#), which was referred to House Education and Public Works, would amend current provisions for teacher certification and establish a board under the State Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation to oversee teacher certification.

[H.4587](#), which was referred to House Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Environmental Affairs, would transfer duties and responsibilities for agricultural public service activities, including those of higher education institutions, to a department of Agricultural Public Service Activities to be established within the Department of Agriculture.

[H.4599](#), which was referred to House Ways and Means, would revise 59-112-50 relating to in-state tuition for military personnel and their dependents to extend the current provision additionally to those who transfer to an eligible institution under certain conditions.

Also during the week, the House debated a bill, [H.3442](#), to reform the Employment Security Commission. By the end of the week, the bill was amended, adopted by the House, and sent to the Senate for consideration. Bills relating to higher education that passed the House and were sent to the Senate included: [H.4244](#), a bill which would add one additional trustee to the College of Charleston Board of Trustees, and [H.4520](#), a bill which would enable the Technical College of the Lowcountry to establish an Enterprise Campus Authority. The conference committee on [H.4087](#) (a bill which relates to the Area Commission for Greenville Technical College and its composition and responsibilities) requested and was granted free conference powers. The committee's report was subsequently submitted and adopted by the House.

The Ways and Means Committee delayed its anticipated budget deliberations by one week and is scheduled to begin its budget deliberations on Monday, February 22. The budget is expected to reach the House by the week of March 8 and to be debated in the House during the week of March 15. A copy of the revised schedule is available at [CLICK HERE](#). The Ways and Means Committee met during the week and considered legislation. It voted to amend [H.4478](#), which includes a number of provisions relating to economic development. The bill was reported out to the House and includes among its provisions one to amend the Centers of Economic Excellence program by providing one-third of appropriated program funds and the responsibility for administering those funds to the Coordinating Council of the Department of Commerce.

In the Senate –

[H.3365](#), Higher Education Efficiency and Administrative Policies Act, and [H.3841](#), Technical College Administrative Efficiencies Act, which had been reported out by Senate Education during the prior week were not taken up and continue to await consideration of the full Senate. During much of the week, the Senate debated a Senate bill, [S.391](#), to reform the Employment Security Commission.

On Wednesday, the Higher Education Subcommittee of Senate Education met and considered two bills: [S.789](#), a bill that would require higher education institutions to post expenditure registries and credit card statements online, and [S.964](#), a companion bill to H.4520 that would enable the Technical College of the Lowcountry to establish an Enterprise Campus Authority. The subcommittee advanced both bills for consideration of the full Senate Education Committee which will meet on February 24. S.964 was passed out of the subcommittee without being amended, whereas S.789 was voted out with a recommendation to amend the bill such that institutions would be required to implement the legislation using existing resources and within a specified timeframe to enable them to do so.

** Bill numbers are linked to the SC General Assembly page and the link goes to the most recent version of the bill.

Reminder: The above report is not intended to be all inclusive. For additional information on legislation referenced above and other legislation relating to higher education, see CHE's website at <http://www.che.sc.gov/Home/CHELegislativeUpdates/LegislativeSession2010.aspx> . Detailed information on the 2010 Session of the General Assembly may be access at www.scstatehouse.gov or from links included on CHE's website.