

## **Legislative Updates of interest for Higher Education Week of Feb. 4 – Feb. 8, 2008**

***Budget Update:*** The House Ways and Means Budget Subcommittees continue to meet. The Ways and Means Subcommittee for Higher Education, Technical and Cultural Resources met on Tuesday and held its last meeting at which presentations were made. The subcommittee heard from Dr. Garrison Walters on the Commission on Higher Education's (CHE) requests and also heard from members on special requests. The Ways and Means Proviso Subcommittee is scheduled to meet on February 12. The Full Ways and Means Committee is expected to hold its budget deliberations during the week of February 18<sup>th</sup>. The House is expected to take up the budget during the week of March 10<sup>th</sup>.

### ***In the House –***

By the end of the week, several bills of interest for higher education received third reading and were sent to the Senate, introduced, and referred to Senate Education. These included: [H.4408](#) (relating to Palmetto Fellows and LIFE “math/ science” enhancements and the freshman year credit hour requirement); [H.4316](#) (relating to Palmetto Fellows and certain magnet schools); and [H.4372](#) (relating to technical colleges and Enterprise Campus authority). The House also gave third reading to [S.1034](#), a joint resolution extending the Higher Education Study Committee reporting deadline to September 15. S.1034 has been enrolled for ratification.

On Wednesday, the Full Ways and Means Committee met and heard testimony on the Centers of Economic Excellence program from the Vice Presidents of Research of Clemson, USC Columbia and MUSC. Following the presentation, the Committee considered [H.4494](#), which amends provisions of the Centers of Economic Excellence Act. The Committee voted to report the bill favorably to the House with amendments. The House received the Committee's report on Thursday.

### ***In the Senate –***

On Wednesday, the Senate Education Higher Education Subcommittee met to consider several bills. Two of the bills considered, [S.909](#) and [S.923](#), provide for free tuition for certain eligible U.S. Armed Forces and National Guard veterans and combat award recipients. S.923 remains in subcommittee for further consideration while S.909 is being advanced to the full Senate Education Committee. It is expected that amendments to S.909 that were discussed by the subcommittee will be considered by the full committee. The subcommittee also advances with an amendment, [S.950](#), which relates to Denmark Technical College Area Commission. Senate Education is scheduled to meet next on February 13. In addition to consideration of legislation, Senate Education will hear a presentation from Dr. Garrison Walters, Executive Director of CHE.

### ***Other –***

CHE Regulations for SC HOPE Scholarships ([Document #3173](#)), Need-based Grants ([Document #3185](#)), and Residency for Tuition and Fee Purposes ([Document #3172](#)) were received by the Senate and House and referred to the Senate Education and House Education and Public Works Committees. The General Assembly review period for these regulations expires June 4.

[S.282](#) (relating to alternative construction deliver and design build provisions) was signed into law by the Governor as was [S.793](#) (relating to meeting locations of Coastal Carolina University Board of Trustees). [H.3379](#) (relating to Palmetto Fellows and LIFE programs and the calculation of the high school rank for S.C. resident students who have attended high school out-of-state) was vetoed by the Governor and awaits consideration of the General Assembly. For FY 2007-08, a Part 1B budget proviso allows for the provisions of [H.3379](#). [H.3379](#) if enacted would codify this budget proviso that has been in effect.

*\*\* Bill numbers are linked to the SC General Assembly page. The link should go 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 [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) . Detailed information on the 2008 Session of the General Assembly may be access at [www.scstatehouse.net](http://www.scstatehouse.net) or from links included on CHE's website at <http://www.che.sc.gov/Home/CHELegislativeUpdates/LegislativeSession2008.aspx> .*