

## Legislative Updates of interest for Higher Education

### Week of March 12 – March 16, 2007:

#### *In the House –*

The House took up the General Appropriations Bill (H.3620) on Tuesday and worked on the budget through Thursday at which time the bill received a second reading as amended. The appropriations bill is expected to receive third reading on March 20 before being sent to the Senate. Although a number of amendments were proposed relating to higher education, only a few passed. Of significance, there were amendments to the appropriations of supplemental or surplus funds to provide additionally, the technical colleges with \$5,000,000 for parity, SC State University \$1,500,000 for deferred maintenance, and Greenville Technical College Northwest Campus Heritage Hall with \$400,000. Additionally, a Part 1B proviso was added that would create a “Critical Needs Nursing Initiative Fund” dependent on funding to be used for nursing and health professional initiatives including faculty salary enhancements, new faculty, student scholarship, loan and grant programs, establishment of the Office of Health Care Workforce Research, and use of simulation technology and equipment. A copy of this detailed proviso is available in the House Journal for Wednesday, March 14, 2007, which is accessible at [www.scstatehouse.net](http://www.scstatehouse.net). The House also gave second reading to the Capital Reserve Fund Bill (H.3621). There were no amendments to this bill affecting higher education. For previous details regarding higher education recommendations, see the weekly update for February 19 - 23, 2007, <http://www.che.sc.gov/Home/CHELegislativeUpdates.aspx>

In regard to other legislation relating to higher education in the House this week, legislation was received from the Senate and introduced in the House including: S.321 relating to statutes for licensing nonpublic postsecondary institutions and use of bond funds and exemption of seasonal/temporary recruitment activities, which was referred to the Ways and Means Committee, and S.291 as noted below.

#### *In the Senate –*

The full Senate Education Committee met on Wednesday. The members heard a presentation from the state’s three research universities. The Higher Education Budget Subcommittee of the Senate Finance Committee began hearings. Members of the Committee include Senator John Courson (Chair), Senator John Matthews, Senator Clementa Pinckney, and Senator Ronnie Cromer. CHE and Clemson University presented requests to the Committee on Thursday. A copy of the CHE’s budget presentation is available at [http://www.che.sc.gov/CHE\\_Docs/InfoCntr/Legis/CHEFY08\\_SFinance\\_Mar15\\_2007.pdf](http://www.che.sc.gov/CHE_Docs/InfoCntr/Legis/CHEFY08_SFinance_Mar15_2007.pdf). The hearings for higher education are scheduled through the week of March 26.

In the chamber, the Senate gave third reading to S.291 and sent the bill to the House where it was introduced on Wednesday and referred to House Education and Public Works. This bill would provide additional incentives in the form of loans that may be forgiven for Palmetto Fellows and LIFE scholarship recipients who have taken 60 hours and who are majoring education, science and math disciplines. Additionally, a bill, S.583, relating to Palmetto Fellows and LIFE for eligible students attending out-of-state high schools was introduced on Thursday and referred to Education. This bill is a companion bill to H.3379 which has been given a favorable Committee report with amendments. A similar provision to amend the existing budget proviso is being recommended by House as part of the FY 07-08 budget bill.

*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>