

Legislative Updates of interest for Higher Education
Week of Mar. 17 – Mar. 21, 2008

Budget Update –

Senate Finance Budget subcommittees continued to meet during the week. The Senate Finance Higher Education Budget Subcommittee met on Tuesday and heard testimony from the USC system and SC State. Additionally, Mr. Mike Shealy, Senate Finance Committee Budget Director, provided the subcommittee with an update on the status of the budget and the House budget recommendations. The Higher Education Budget Subcommittee met again on Wednesday and heard from The Citadel and The State Technical College System. The subcommittee is scheduled to meet again on March 25 and will hear from the MUSC, AHEC, and the College of Charleston. They are also scheduled to meet on March 26 and will hear Clemson, Coastal Carolina, Lander and Winthrop and will also consider provisos. Members of this subcommittee include Senators Courson, Matthews, Pinckney and Cromer.

As a reminder, the full Senate Finance Committee is expected consider its budget recommendations during the week of April 1. The Full Senate is expected to debate the budget during the week of April 14. Once the Senate approves a budget, it will be returned to the House for further amendments and then sent to Conference Committee to work out any differences between the House and Senate. From there, any Governor's vetoes, if applicable, must be considered before the budget becomes final.

In the House –

The House was on furlough during the week.

In the Senate –

During the week, a bill, [S.1207](#), relating to the composition of the Board of Trustees at SC State, was introduced and referred to Senate Education. [S.1007](#), The SC Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act, received its third reading and was sent to the House. This bill provides for updated uniform standards and other revisions relating to the management of charitable funds and endowments. [S.1144](#), which would require state and local entities to post on websites certain detailed financial records, was considered in a Judiciary subcommittee. The bill was carried over for further review of the fiscal impact. Also, during the week, a Senate Education Select Committee on Teacher Recruitment and Retention met and discussed the status of the committee's work. The committee, which is chaired by Senator Matthews, is expected to meet again as it continues work to develop a report and recommendations. Please see information above regarding the status of the budget in the Senate and the Senate Finance higher education budget subcommittee meetings that were also held during the week.

education, see 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 or from links included on CHE's website at <http://www.che.sc.gov/Home/CHELegislativeUpdates/LegislativeSession2008.aspx>