

Legislative Updates of interest for Higher Education
Week of Mar. 31 – Apr. 4, 2008

Budget Update –

During the week, the Senate Finance Committee deliberated FY 2008-09 budget recommendations. The Committee concluded its work by the end of the week and a report on the Finance Committee recommendations will be included in the update for the week of April 7 – April 11, 2008. The full Senate will consider the Committee's recommendations during the week of April 14.

In the House –

On Tuesday, legislation was introduced relating to the creation of Job Tax Credits. Included in this bill, [H.4912](#), is a provision for tax credits for businesses that provide education for those without a high school degree. [S.1022](#), Critical Needs Nursing Initiative, was introduced and referred to the House Medical, Military and Public and Municipal Affairs Committee. On Wednesday, CHE proposed regulations were received from the House Education and Public Works Committee including: one relating to licensing criteria for nonpublic postsecondary institutions ([Document #3129](#)); another relating to nonpublic postsecondary institution licensing and the use of surety bonds ([Document #3170](#)); and a third relating to free tuition for residents sixty years of age and older ([Document #3143](#)). By Wednesday, [H.4896](#) relating to the TriCounty Technical College Area Commission and its authority to enter into ground lease arrangements had received its third reading and was sent to the Senate where it was referred to the Senate Education Committee.

In the Senate –

As indicated above, the Senate Finance Committee met beginning Monday. In addition to the FY 2008-09 budget bills, the Committee considered a codification bill, [S.530](#), and also [H.3567](#) relating to a cigarette tax and [S.1252](#) relating to the CoEE program and expenditure of CoEE fund interest earnings. By the end of the week, [S.1252](#) had received its third reading in the Senate and was sent to the House.

The Higher Education Subcommittee of Senate Education met on Wednesday and took up several bills including: [H.4408](#) relating to the course eligibility requirements for science and math enhancements for LIFE and Palmetto Fellows; [H.4316](#) relating to eligibility requirements for Palmetto Fellows for certain magnet school students; [H.4680](#) relating to the make-up of the Spartanburg Technical and Community College Area Commission; [S.1115](#) relating to a residency exception for tuition and fee purposes for certain military dependents; [S.1207](#) relating to the composition of the SC State Board of Trustees; [S.1233](#) relating to the waiver of the out-of-state tuition differential for those establishing residency in South Carolina but working full-time in adjoining NC or GA counties; and [S.1239](#) relating to the establishment of a loan repayment program for chiropractic medicine. The Committee voted to approve these bills for consideration of the full Education Committee at its next meeting on April 9.

Reminder: The above report is not intended to be all inclusive. Bill numbers are linked to the SC General Assembly page. The link should go to the most recent version of the bill. For additional information on legislation referenced above and other legislation relating to higher education, see http://www.che.sc.gov/CHE_Docs/InfoCntr/Legis/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>