

**Legislative Updates of interest for Higher Education**  
**Week of Mar. 3 – Mar. 7, 2008**

***Budget Update –***

The Appropriations Act and Capital Reserve Fund Bills ([H.4800](#) and [H.4801](#)) were introduced in the House on Tuesday, March 4, and House members received a briefing from the Ways and Means Committee. The House will begin debating the budget on March 11. For a report on Ways and Means recommendations for higher education, see update for the week of Feb. 18 – Feb 22, 2008. Senate Finance budget subcommittees have begun holding budget hearings. The Finance Higher Education Budget Subcommittee is scheduled to meet at 10:00 am on Thursday, March 13, and will hear from CHE, Francis Marion, and Tuition Grants. The members of this subcommittee include Senators Courson, Matthews, Pinckney and Cromer.

***In the House –***

*See above*

***In the Senate –***

A bill, [S.1170](#), was introduced on Tuesday relating to school districts and gifted and talented education. Several provisions in the bill relate to higher education including: (1) a provision requiring public colleges and universities to give preference to students with certain Advanced Placement (AP) test scores and International Baccalaureate (IB) programs scores in admissions considerations, (2) a provision is included that would increase the LIFE scholarship for certain scores on AP tests and for IB diplomas, and (3) a provision that would create a board to oversee an matching endowment program for purposes of gifted and talented education programs including endowed professorships at public or private institutions of higher education. The bill was referred to the Senate Education Committee.

**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](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](http://www.scstatehouse.net) or from links included on CHE's website at <http://www.che.sc.gov/Home/CHELegislativeUpdates/LegislativeSession2008.aspx> .