

## **Legislative Updates of interest for Higher Education**

### **Week of March 5 - 9, 2007:**

#### ***In the House –***

On Tuesday, the Appropriations Act (H.3620) was introduced and placed on members' desks. The House budget deliberations will begin when the House convenes next on Tuesday at 10:00 am. The bill is available on-line at [http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess117\\_2007-2008/appropriations2007/gab3620.htm](http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess117_2007-2008/appropriations2007/gab3620.htm).

Also on Tuesday, the full House Education and Public Works Committee met and voted to send to the House favorably with amendments H.3476, which provides for alternative teacher certification program for persons passing an ABCTE exam, and H.3379 relating to SC residents who have attended high schools in another state and eligibility for Palmetto Fellows and LIFE scholarship programs, which amends and puts in permanent code a temporary budget proviso that was implemented this year. A similar provision to amend the existing budget proviso is being recommended by House Ways and Means as part of its FY 07-08 budget recommendations. H.3162 which creates an advisory board for the SC Teacher Loan Forgiveness program has passed the House and was introduced in the Senate on Thursday.

#### ***In the Senate –***

A bill, S.321, relating to requested amendments by CHE to postsecondary licensing statutes that affect use of surety bond funds and licensing of seasonal or temporary recruiting activities, received third reading in the Senate and was sent to the House. S.121 relating to the sale of lottery tickets on election days also received its third reading and was introduced in the House where it was referred to Ways and Means. Legislation, S.539, was introduced and referred to Senate Finance. This bill relates to provisions for tax credits for donations to public historically black colleges and universities.

The Senate adopted amendments from the Education Committee and gave second reading to S.291 which provides 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. The bill, as amended by the Education Committee, provides an additional amount of up to \$3300 for the eligible Palmetto Fellows recipients and up to \$2500 for the eligible LIFE recipients in the form of a loan that could be forgiven in five years.

In the upcoming week, the Higher Education Budget Subcommittee of Senate Finance will begin its hearings on Thursday, March 15. The Commission on Higher Education is scheduled at 10 am and Clemson University at 10:30 am. Also next week, the full Senate Education Committee will meet on Wednesday at 10 am and is scheduled to hear a special presentation from the presidents of the three research institutions.

*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/Legisl/HigherEd\\_Legis\\_List.xls](http://www.che.sc.gov/CHE_Docs/InfoCntr/Legisl/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>