

## **Legislative Updates of interest for Higher Education Week of May 28 – June 1, 2007**

***Budget Update:*** The Budget Conference Committee did not meet during the week and is expected to meet again on Monday, June 4. Once the committee concludes its work, the bill will be returned to the House and Senate for approval before being sent to the Governor for consideration. Last week, the Senate passed and sent to the House, S.787, a concurrent resolution, to extend Sine Die adjournment and enable the General Assembly to meet June 19 through June 21. The House did not act on this resolution during the week and adjourned debate until June 5. The joint resolution, S.784, to enable the 2006 Appropriations Act to continue to remain in effect until the 2007-08 Appropriations Act passed was also passed by the House.

### ***In the House –***

The House began debating H.3964 which would enable concealed weapon permit holders to carry concealed weapons on educational facilities, but did not take any action on this bill. Debate was adjourned until June 6.

The House received from the Senate with amendments H.3379 relating to S.C. residents who have attended high schools in another state and eligibility for Palmetto Fellows and LIFE scholarship programs. The House further amended the bill to include the provisions for math/science incentives for scholarship recipients as had been passed earlier in the session by the House as H.3170. The bill now awaits Senate consideration.

S.213 which is legislation to enact the “Prevention of Underage Drinking and Access to Alcohol Act of 2007” was considered by the House this week. Before being passed by the House and returned to the Senate, S.213 was further amended. It continues to include changes in current statutory provisions as to when Palmetto Fellows, LIFE and HOPE scholarships, Tuition Grants and Need-based Grants are lost based on convictions of felony and alcohol and drug offenses. The provisions adopted by the House would cause recipients to lose these awards upon any felony conviction or upon any second or subsequent alcohol or drug related offenses.

A bill, H.4197, was introduced that would use funds collected for unlawfully passing a stopped school bus for the purposes of establishing scholarships to train medical students in trauma medicine at MUSC and USC School of Medicine.

### ***In the Senate –***

H.3170 which would provide incentives for state scholarship recipients pursuing math and science remains on the Senate calendar awaiting its second reading. As a reminder, the Education Committee had voted to amend the bill by striking the language approved by the House and replacing it with language from S.291 with additional amendments to the language as passed previously which would create a loan repayment program for math, science and education majors who are recipients of Palmetto Fellows or LIFE scholarships and in their last two years of college.

The Senate amended the House amendments on S.243, the Hydrogen Infrastructure Development Fund Act, and returned the bill to the House.

### ***Other –***

Several bills were ratified and now await action by the Governor including: S.657 which is a bill to enact the S.C. Critical Needs Nursing Initiative Act; S.666 relating to Winthrop University’s Board of Trustees membership; S.322 that creates a college tuition assistance program for National Guard members and closes the National Guard Loan Repayment program to new participants; S.459, the Jessica Horton Act; S.484 relating to the Tuition Grant program and eligible institutions; and H.4029 relating to the Horry County Higher Education Commission.

*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>