

**Legislative Updates of interest for Higher Education  
Week of May 7 – 11, 2007**

***In the House –***

The House considered the Senate budget and capital reserve bills (H.3620 and H. 3621) and insisted on its version as amended (see [http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess117\\_2007-2008/hj07/20070508.htm](http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess117_2007-2008/hj07/20070508.htm) for House Journal of May 8). The budget will now go to conference committee where the differences between the House and Senate versions will be negotiated. The House budget conferees were named and include Representatives Cooper, Edge and Neilson. It has been announced that the conference committee will begin meeting on Monday, May 14.

Also in the House, S.657 which is a bill to enact the S.C. Critical Needs Nursing Initiative Act was introduced and placed on the calendar without reference. This legislation contains provisions to increase the availability of nurses by providing for the enhancement of nursing faculty salaries, the addition of new nursing faculty, scholarships/loans/grants for students pursuing nursing faculty positions, an office for health care workforce research, and simulation technology for nursing instruction. A companion bill to S.657, H.4038, was also introduced and referred to Ways & Means. The House, as did the Senate in the prior week, voted to override the Governor's veto of S.451 relating to athletic facilities revenue bond limits for USC and Clemson. H.4020, relating to the Horry County Higher Education Commission was given third reading and sent to the Senate.

Several bills related to higher education were considered in subcommittee and committee meetings during the week. The House Ways and Means Committee met on Wednesday, May 9. The Committee voted to give favorable reports to 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.484 relating to the S.C. Tuition Grants program and the addition of Bob Jones University as an eligible institution, and S.282 relating to alternative construction delivery. A subcommittee of House Judiciary considered legislation, H.3964, that would change current prohibitions and enable those with concealed weapons permits to carrying the concealed weapon at schools and colleges and universities. The subcommittee adjourned debate on this bill. The Higher Education subcommittee of House Education and Public Works voted to report to the full committee a bill, S.666, that would add members to the Board of Trustees at Winthrop University.

***In the Senate –***

The Senate also named its budget conferees during the week which include Senators Leatherman, Peeler and Land.

***Other –***

S.321 relating to use of bond funds posted by nonpublic postsecondary institutions was ratified (R.40) and awaits action of the Governor.

*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>