



HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY UPDATE

Friday, February 26, 2021

State Legislative Update

[S.16](#) (Requirement of High School Financial Literacy Instruction)

Status: Amended on February 23 to advance the effective date to July 1, 2023. Received third reading on February 24 and sent to House for consideration.

Summary: Replaces economics with personal finance as a requirement for high school graduation.

[S.38](#) (Reinforcing College Education on America's Constitutional Heritage (REACH) Act)

Status: Reported favorably with amendments by the Senate Education Committee to the Full Body on February 24. Point of Order (Rule 39: No Bill or Joint Resolution shall receive a second reading unless printed and made available to the members at least one day previous to such reading.) raised on February 25 and sustained by president of Senate.

Summary: Requires students study the US Constitution, Declaration of Independence, and Federalist Papers for at least one year to graduate high school. Requires IHLs to instruct students for three semester credit hours in the same.

[S.376](#) (State Institution of Higher Education Efficiency Act)

Status: Reported favorably with amendments by the Senate Education Committee to the Full Body on February 24. Point of Order (Rule 39) raised on February 25 and sustained by president of Senate.

Summary: Allows IHL boards of trustees to establish auxiliary divisions, which would remain part of their originating institutions but be exempt from various state laws. Institutions are exempt from the requirements for permanent improvement projects that cost less than five million dollars for research universities and less than two and one-half million dollars for all other institutions. Requires permanent improvement projects be submitted to JBRC and EBO. Provides boards of trustees can adopt procurement policies for auxiliaries. Allows exemptions from certain requirements for state officers and employees. Exempts employees of certain research IHLs and non-research, four-year IHLs. Provides SFAA may exempt private gifts, auxiliary divisions, and other sales and services from consolidated procurement code.

[S.611](#) (Joint Resolution)


Status: Received first reading by the Senate on February 24. Point of Order (Rule 39) raised on February 25 and sustained by president of Senate.

Summary: A joint resolution to approve the CHE's proposed regulation changes relating to the National Guard CAP program.

 [H. 3588](#) (Requirement of Senior Courses to Receive LIFE Scholarship)

Status: On House calendar. Adjourned debate February 25.

Summary: To be eligible for a LIFE scholarship, a student must be either a student who has graduated from a high school located in this state having earned at least one unit of credit in mathematics or computer science and one unit of credit in English/language arts which may be accomplished by dual enrollment during the senior year beginning July 1, 2025.

 [H. 3686](#) (Student Loan Bill of Rights)

Status: Discussed during House Education and Public Works Committee February 24 but did not pass out of committee.


Summary: Would create Student Loan Bill of Rights Act and regulate student education loan servicers by the Department of Consumer Affairs.


Commissioner Recommended for Reappointment


On Wednesday, February 24, the Senate Education Committee recommended Commissioner Ben Satcher, Jr, be reappointed to the Commission on Higher Education to serve a term set to expire July 1, 2024.

House Ways & Means Provisos Subcommittee

The House Ways & Means Proviso Subcommittee held its first meeting on Wednesday, February 24. Each subcommittee's recommendations, including the higher education subcommittee recommendations, can be accessed [here](#).

 Proviso 117.tsc: The Higher Education Subcommittee recommended proviso 117.tsc, amended to clarify the CHE's role in assisting with coordination of transfers of student credit and establish March 1, 2022 as the deadline for development of transfer policies, with collaboration among the CHE, the State Tech Board, and public IHLs. . The amended proviso was adopted by the Proviso Subcommittee.

 Proviso 117.pmh: The Higher Education Subcommittee recommended proviso 117.pmh, which would partner the South Carolina Center for Rural and Primary Healthcare with public IHLs to coordinate statewide mobile health units to service rural and at-risk communities. The Proviso Subcommittee adopted the proviso as amended.

 Clemson Men's Track and Field: The Higher Education Subcommittee withdrew a proviso that would require Clemson University to continue its men's track and field program and maintain its operations at the same level as prior fiscal years.

House Budget Deliberations Schedule

Week	Legislative Task
March 2 – 4	House Ways & Means committee convenes 10:30 am on 3/2 to begin deliberations.
March 9 – 12	Appropriations bill printed
March 16 – 18	Printed appropriations bills placed on House members' desks.
March 22 – 25	Budget deliberations on House Floor held.