

## Legislative Updates of interest for Higher Education – Weeks of Feb. 10 and Feb 17

*(Highlighted and bolded text is linked to source. Bill numbers go to the most recent version on the SC General Assembly website, [www.scstatehouse.gov](http://www.scstatehouse.gov), which is the latest version adopted House or Senate. As a result, bills may not reflect action of committees or the bodies for amendments under consideration. Text appearing in all caps following a bill reflects a copy of the bill title. This report is not intended to be all inclusive. For additional information on the 2014 session, see SC General Assembly website. For information reports on CHE's website, [Click Here](#))*

### **Week of Feb. 10 – Feb. 14, 2014:**

Due to inclement weather, the House and Senate canceled session and did not meet during the week. The House Ways and Means Proviso Subcommittee met on Tuesday and considered proviso recommendations from the various budget subcommittees. Information about subcommittee proviso recommendations that were considered is available [HERE](#). Of interest for higher education, a new proviso was adopted for recommendation to the full committee that would create a committee to oversee the procurement, execution and implementation of a South Carolina higher education efficiency, effectiveness and accountability review. See below for a link to information about the Ways & Means recommendations that were adopted the following week.

The BEA held its monthly meeting by teleconference on Thursday, Feb. 13 and adopted its revenue projections for FY 2014-15. State revenues continue to improve. However, the BEA did not change its general fund revenue estimates for this year or next year, except to recognize in the current year a \$28 million increase due to a law suit settlement. The BEA acted to affirm its earlier November preliminary general fund revenue estimate for FY15. The BEA acted to change the lottery estimates for the current year and next year. The current year lottery estimate was increased by \$50 million from \$260 million to \$310 million including lottery proceeds and unclaimed prize funds. *(Note: Lottery appropriations for FY14 total \$309 from proceeds, anticipated surplus, and unclaimed prize funds.)* For FY15, the lottery estimate was increased by \$30 million from the November estimate of \$260 million with proceeds increased by \$28 million to a total of \$288 million and unclaimed prize funds from \$8 million to \$10 million.

### **Week of Feb. 17 – 21, 2014:**

#### ***In the House –***

Bills of interest in introduced during the week include:

- [H.4635](#), HOUSE RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE ACADEMIC STUDIES ASSOCIATION'S ACADEMIC BOYCOTT AGAINST ISRAEL AND CALLING UPON THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION, EACH OF THE PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, AND ALL OF SOUTH CAROLINA'S INDEPENDENT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES TO REJECT ANTI-SEMITISM AND NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE ACADEMIC BOYCOTT (*Bill Title*). The resolution, sponsored by the 124 House members was introduced and adopted on Tuesday, February 18.
- [H. 4646](#) amends §59-48-20 to provide that the provosts of Clemson, USC and MUSC who are *ex officio* board members of Governor's School for Science and Mathematics may designate a person to serve in their place. (Sponsors: Reps. Bingham, Allison, Anthony and Hayes; Referred to Committee on Education and Public Works)
- [H. 4648](#) adds §8-11-115 to establish a mandatory drug testing program from all state employees, officers, and elected officials. (Sponsors: Reps. Toole, Atwater, Huggins, Ballentine, Kennedy, Bingham and Quinn; Referred to Committee on Judiciary)
- [H. 4748](#), CONCURRENT RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE AND EXPRESS DEEP APPRECIATION TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM FOR ITS OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS IN EDUCATING AND TRAINING OUR STATE'S WORKFORCE AND TO DECLARE MARCH 25, 2014, AS SOUTH CAROLINA TECHNICAL COLLEGE SYSTEM DAY. (*Bill Title*). The concurrent resolution, sponsored by the 124 House members was introduced, adopted and sent to the Senate on Thursday, February 20.
- [H. 4735](#) creates a new § 59-101-440 to provide that a student must be exempted from out-of-state tuition at public institutions in SC and must be eligible for certain state-sponsored scholarships and tuition assistance if he attend a high school in SC for three or more years, graduated from a high school in SC or received the equivalent of a high school diploma in SC, registers as an entering student or is currently enrolled in a public institution not earlier than the

fall semester of the 2014-15 academic year, and if lacking lawful immigration status, files an affidavit with the institution that he has filed an application to legalize his immigration status or will file when eligible. The legislation directs CHE to establish rules and regulations to effectuate the provisions. (Sponsor: Rep. Rutherford; Referred to Committee on Ways and Means)

- [H. 4739](#) would add a new code section, §59-150-365, to create a new scholarship program, known as the SC Leadership Scholarship, for students enrolled in SC institutions. The proposal would provide \$2800 per student for students meeting criteria established by CHE to identify students who are demonstrated leaders in their school and communities and whose conduct indicate a significant potential as a leader in the future. The proposal includes recommended funding of five million dollars.

Other Legislation considered during the week:

- The full Ways and Means Committee met during the week to consider its recommendations for the FY15 budget. On Thursday, the Committee adopted its recommendations to be advanced to the full House. For a CHE staff review of the recommendations for higher education, [CLICK HERE](#).
- The full House Education and Public Works K-12 Subcommittee met on Wednesday and considered legislation relating to First Steps Reauthorization, [H.3428](#), which was amended and reported out of Committee, and [H.3994](#), Read to Succeed Act, which was carried over by the Committee.

### ***In the Senate –***

Bills of interest in introduced during the week include:

- [S.1021](#), a companion bill to [H.4632](#) introduced previously, would create Charleston University through the merger of the College of Charleston and the Medical University of South Carolina. (Sponsors: Grooms; Referred to Senate Education)

Other Legislation considered during the week:

- The Senate amended and gave second reading to [H.3945](#) relating to the State's Ethics Provisions concerning enforcement and disclosure.
- On Wednesday, the Senate Education Higher Education Subcommittee met and considered a bill relating to the SC National Guard College Assistance Program ([H.3784](#)) and bills relating to provisions for the waiver of out-of-state tuition for veterans ([H.3086](#) and [S.93](#)). Additional information was requested. The committee recessed and did not report the bills out to the full Committee.
- The K-12 subcommittee of Senate Education also met on Wednesday and continued to discuss [S.300](#) concerning Common Core. The bill was carried over. A video of the meeting is available [HERE](#).