

Legislative Updates of interest for Higher Education Week of April 14 – 18, 2014

(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, 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](#))

In the House –

- The House is on furlough from April 14 - April 25 and did not meet during the week.

In the Senate –

- During the week, the Senate Finance Committee met and continued its work on its budget recommendations ([H.4701 and H.4702](#)). The Committee considered budget provisos and will meet again next week to consider numbers and finalize its recommendations for advancement to the full Senate.
- [H.3994](#), Read to Succeed Act, was passed by the House on April 11 and introduced in the Senate on April 15. The bill was referred to Senate Education.
- [H.4895](#), Military Family Quality of Life Enhancement Act of 2014, relating to various provisions for military families passed the House and was introduced in the Senate on April 15. Among the provisions is one that would allow for in-state tuition for discharged military by providing a waiver of the 12-month physical presence requirement for discharged military who establish residency in South Carolina. A similar bill ([H.3086](#)) remains on the Senate Calendar awaiting second reading.
- [S.1229](#) relating to the definition of an eligible institution as it pertains to the South Carolina Higher Education Excellence Enhancement Program was introduced and referred to Senate Education. The bill would amend requirements to include a provision that would enable Clinton College to qualify. (Sponsor: Hayes, Referred to Education)
- Bills relating to provisions for the waiver of out-of-state tuition for veterans ([H.3086](#) and [S.93](#)) and accountability-based funding ([S.266](#)) remained on the calendar awaiting second reading.
- [H.3893](#) relating to K-12 standards and assessments passed the House on April 11 and was introduced in the Senate on April 15 and referred to Senate Education. The bill includes provisions relating to a compromise on prohibiting Common Core standards which provides for a review process for these standards and includes a provision to withdraw South Carolina from the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium and prohibit the use of the Smarter Balance Assessment. Earlier in the week Superintendent Zais announced ([Click Here for a related news story](#)) that he had the authority and was withdrawing South Carolina from the Consortium. Similar bills to H.3893 including [S.1145](#), [S.300](#) and [S.888](#), as amended, also remain on the Senate Calendar awaiting debate.

Other

- The Board of Economic Advisors BEA met on Thursday and took no action to change the current or next year's revenue estimates. The state's revenues for the year continue to remain on target and are nearly \$30 million ahead of the estimate. [Click Here](#) for an article in The State on Thursday's meeting.
- [H.3919](#) which provides for the elimination of the high school exit examination and related changes was signed into law on April 14.