

## **Legislative Updates of Interest for Higher Education Week of Mar. 17 - 21, 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](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](#))*

### ***In the House –***

- A special subcommittee of the House Ways and Means Committee met on Wednesday to begin review of the Charleston University Act ([H.4632](#)). This ad hoc study Committee is chaired by Representative Jim Merrill who is joined on the committee by Representatives Leon Stavrinakis, Chip Limehouse, Kenny Bingham, Murrell Smith, Gilda Cobb-Hunter, and Mike Anthony. The committee heard testimony from the Honorable Joseph Riley, Mayor of Charleston, and from Mary Graham of the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce. CHE was scheduled to testify but due to time constraints was rescheduled to do so at the next meeting of the committee.
- The House Education and Public Works Committee met on Wednesday and voted to advanced several bills and joint resolutions concerning regulations of the State Department of Education to the full House. Among these were [H.4386](#), [H.4646](#) (GSSM Board of Trustees), [H.3994](#) (Read to Succeed) as amended by the Committee, [H.4413](#), and Regulation Documents numbered 4391, 4396, 4401, 4405, 4409, 4397, 4403, 4400, 4404, and 4420. (Full text of Regulations may be accessed by document number at <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/regnsrch.php>.)
- [H.4956](#), relating to statewide student learning and performance assessment program for K-12 was introduced and referred to committee. (Sponsors: Reps. Rivers, Bowen, Herbkersman, Norman, Putnam, G.R. Smith and Stringer; Referred to House Education and Public Works.)

### ***In the Senate –***

- Senate Finance budget subcommittees continued to meet during the week to hear testimony from agencies regarding budget requests. The Higher Education Budget Subcommittee met on Wednesday and heard from the USC, Coastal Carolina, and the Citadel.
- [H.3784](#), relating to administrative changes to the National Guard College Assistance Program, was reported out of Senate Education Committee favorably. By the end of the week, the bill was given third reading and enrolled for ratification (signed by the Senate President Pro Tempore and Speaker of the House) before being sent to the Governor for consideration.
- [H.3410](#), relating to Regional Education Centers established under the Education and Economic Development Act of 2005, was adopted and enrolled for ratification by the end of the week. The bill transfers oversight authority of regional Education Centers from the Department of Education to the Department of Commerce. Once ratified, the bill will be sent to the Governor for consideration.
- [S.93](#) was reported out of the Senate Education Committee to the full Senate with a favorable majority report as amended and an unfavorable minority report. The bill as introduced provides that independent or eligible dependent persons who use any form of the United States Department of Veteran Affairs GI Bill in any way to fund their post-secondary education or training are eligible for in-state tuition rates. The Education

Committee amended the bill include only current or former service members who use such benefits to be eligible for in-state tuition. The bill awaits second reading by the full Senate.

- **H.3086** was also reported out of the Senate Education Committee to the full Senate with a favorable majority report as amended and an unfavorable minority report. This bill if enacted would waive the 12-month physical presence requirement for veterans of the Armed Services of the United States who have been honorably discharged from service and their dependent provided the veterans have evidenced intent to establish domicile in South Carolina. The bill, which awaits second reading, was amended by Committee only to update the date of applicability upon passage from the prior year to August 1, 2014 or the fall 2014 academic session.
- **H.3919**, relating to the high school exit exam so as to delete the requirement and make related technical changes, was reported out of committee favorably with amendments.
- **S.300**, relating to Common Core Standards and prohibiting the use of these standards, was reported out of the Senate Education Committee to the full Senate amended and with a favorable majority report and an unfavorable minority report. The bill, as amended by Senate Education Committee would: restrict students education data reporting to federal and other agencies and entities; make changes to the process for the adoption of standards; leave the current standards in place but make changes to assessment and review requirements requiring a review by July 2018; remove South Carolina from the Smarter Balances Assessment Consortium and prohibit the adoption or administration of the Smarter Balanced Assessment; and delete the high school exit exam requirements and make related technical changes. The bill awaits second reading by the full Senate.
- **H.3024**, relating to child abuse and reporting, was considered by the full Judiciary Committee at its meeting on Tuesday. The bill amends current statute to add to the list of those required to report school or college administrators, coaches, firefighters, camp counselors, scout leaders, and any other persons whose duties require direct contact or supervision of children and to make other changes to clarify reporting responsibilities and to increase penalties for failure to report. The legislation also includes a provision to remove limitations of the State's Tort Liability Claims Act for school and college administrators who fail to report. After struggling with provisions relating to new tort and criminal liability, the full committee sent the bill back to its subcommittee for further work to remedy the concerns that were raised.

### ***Other***

- The Board of Economic Advisors met on March 18, 2014. There were no changes made to the current or upcoming year estimates.