

Legislative Updates of interest for Higher Education Week of May 19-23, 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 received the Appropriations Act and Capital Reserve Fund bills ([H.4701 and H.4702](#)) from the Senate. Provided the House does not accept the Senate budget plan, the House may further amend the bill (e.g., return to its recommendations and may amend further) prior to sending the bills to conference committee to resolve differences between the House and Senate. The bills await further consideration of the House which is expected to take up the bills on Tuesday.
- [H.3893](#), relating statewide education standards and assessments (Common Core) was adopted by the Senate with amendments and returned to the House during the week of May 5. During the week, the House accepted the Senate amendments, and the bill was enrolled for ratification after which it will be sent to the Governor for consideration.
- [H.3945](#) relating to ethics reform was reported out of House Judiciary to the House with a favorable report with amendments during the week of May 5. The bill previously had passed the Senate and was returned to the House with amendments. The House adopted amendments and after giving third reading returned the bill to the Senate.
- [S.516](#), Read to Succeed Act, was reported to the House from House Education and Public Works with amendments. The bill remains on the House Calendar awaiting consideration.
- [S.535](#), Clemson University Enterprise Act, which was amended by Ways and Means as recommended by the ad hoc K-16 facilities subcommittee to strike all text and replace it with an amendment to change the facilities approval process for all public higher education institutions. The bill remains on the House Calendar awaiting consideration.
- [S.825](#) relating to the Ad Valorem Tax concerning property tax for military housing was further amended by Ways and Means to add provisions of [H.4859](#), Military Family Quality of Life Enhancement Act. Among the provisions of H.4859 is a provision similar to [H.3086](#) that would enable discharged veterans to waive the 12- month physical presence requirement for purposes of in-state residency for tuition and fees. The bill remains on the House Calendar awaiting consideration.
- [S.940](#) relating to the Capital Improvement Sales and Use Tax was amended further concerning the eligible counties that may use the tax for education purposes. During the week, the bill was amended and received second reading.
- [S.1295](#) which adds a member from Fairfield County to the Midlands Technical College Commission was received from the Senate and placed on the calendar without reference.

In the Senate –

- On Thursday, [H.4632](#) which as passed by the House designates the College of Charleston as a public research institution under the University of Charleston name and also adds University of Charleston as an eligible institution for the SC Centers of Economic Excellence program (SmartState), was recalled from the Senate Education Committee on a motion by Senator Leatherman and a vote of 22-15 to recall the bill. The bill now awaits second reading by the Senate. Prior to being recalled, the bill with amendments from the subcommittee was pending consideration of the full Education Committee.

Other

- The Board of Economic Advisors (BEA) met on Wednesday and acted to increase the state's revenue estimates. Their action resulted in increased anticipated recurring funds for FY 2014-15 of about \$19 million, non-recurring of about \$41 million, and increases to lottery fund estimates of about \$19 million and \$6 million to EIA-fund estimates. For an article on Wednesday's meeting, see *SC local governments could get more state money*, The State, May 22, 2014, [CLICK HERE](#).