

Legislative Updates of interest for Higher Education: Week of Jan. 20 - 24, 2014

(Highlighted & bolded text is linked to source. Bill numbers go to the most recent version on the SC General Assembly website, www.scstatehouse.gov. 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 –

Bills of interest in introduced during the week include:

- [H.4518](#), relating to appropriations from proceeds of the South Carolina Education Lottery, would add a new section §59-150-420 to prohibit lottery proceeds from being appropriated for capital improvement projects at or associated with an institution of higher learning. (Sponsor: White; Referred to House Ways & Means) Note: For the current and past two years, the state's budget has included lottery funds for higher education facilities repair and maintenance, and last year additionally toward several capital building projects. Since the inception of the SC's Lottery, lottery funds have been appropriated to SC State for facilities repair and maintenance and also through the Higher Education Excellence Enhancement Act program to historically black colleges and universities with an allowable use being facilities improvements.
- [H.4535](#), relating to public College and University Boards of Trustees, would provide that an employee of a public institution may not be elected to another institution's board until one year after employment separation. (Sponsor: Barfield; Referred to House Education & Public Works)

Other Legislation considered during the week:

- The Conference Report on [S.22](#), Restructuring Act and State Agency Deficit Prevention and Recognition Act, was adopted by the House on a vote of 108-0, and as noted below by the Senate. **S.22** restructures state government by eliminating the Budget and Control Board and providing for administration of its former responsibilities through the Department of Administration as part of the Governor's cabinet or by new or reconstituted entities. The bill was ratified on Thursday (i.e., signed by the House Speaker and Senate President Pro Tempore) and sent to the Governor who is expected to sign the legislation into law.

Ways and Means budget subcommittees continued to hold hearings during the week. The subcommittee for higher education heard testimony from The Citadel, Lander University, the USC System, and University Center of Greenville.

In the Senate –

Bills of interest in introduced during the week include:

- [S.963](#) would amend K-12 teacher salaries as provided in 59-20-50(4)(b). (Sponsors: Jackson, Cleary, Matthews, and others; Referred to Senate Education.)

Other Legislation considered during the week:

- The Conference Report on [S.22](#), Restructuring Act and State Agency Deficit Prevention and Recognition Act, was adopted by the Senate on a vote of 39-4. See above.
- [S.911](#) and [S.940](#), relating to amendments to the Education Capital Improvements Sales and Use Tax, were considered by the Sales and Income Tax Subcommittee of Senate Finance on Thursday. These bills provide for consideration of amending current restrictions imposed on counties that may participate in providing by referendum the addition of a 1¢ sales tax for education projects include public schools and colleges and universities. The Subcommittee voted to advance **S.940** to full Finance after amending it to provide for participation by counties not exceeding a three percent total sales tax rather than two percent as included in the bill as introduced.

Other News:

The Governor gave her State of the State Address to a Joint Assembly of the House and Senate on Wednesday evening. The address is printed in the House and Senate Journals for January 22 and a copy is available [here](#) (HJ).

The South Carolina Board of Economic Advisors (BEA) held its monthly meeting on Thursday. The BEA did not make any changes to the adopted revenue estimates for the current fiscal year (FY 2013-14) or preliminary estimate for the upcoming fiscal year (FY 2014-15). The BEA meets again next month to adopt the FY 2014-15 revenue estimate as required by February 14. A brief news report on Thursday's BEA meeting from The State newspaper is available [here](#).