

## Legislative Updates of Interest for Higher Education

Week of Feb. 24 – 28, 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 –***

During the week, the Higher Education, Technical and Cultural Budget Subcommittee and the K-16 Building Needs and Utilization Special Subcommittee of House Ways and Means met and heard from representatives from Huron. The presentation concerned higher education and the challenges and benefits of conducting an efficiency study of South Carolina higher education universities. The members heard earlier from Deloitte, and as reported previously ([Click Here](#)), the Ways and Means Committee included in its budget recommendations \$4 million dollars for purposes of conducting such a study.

The FY 2014-15 Ways & Means budget recommendations are expected to be provided to members during the week of March 3 with deliberations to begin in the House during the week of March 11. Information about the FY 2014-15 Budget is posted on the General Assembly's website, [Click Here](#).

### ***In the Senate –***

During the Week:

- [S.266](#), a Joint Resolution directing CHE and the institutions to develop recommendations for an Accountability Based Funding Model, was brought up for second reading in the Senate. The Senate adopted the proposed Education Committee amendment and then adopted a perfecting amendment to the Committee amendment to delete the implementation date and remove specific reporting requirements to provide more flexibility. Consistent with the Committee amendment, the amended resolution requires CHE and the presidents to make recommendations for a new funding formula that ensures financial support is received from the state based upon the quality and effectiveness of services provided, prohibits the use of the MRR in constructing a new formula, and exempts the state's technical colleges. S.266 as amended was carried over without receiving second reading and remains on the Senate Calendar.
- The Senate considered [S.940](#) relating to amendments to the Education Capital Improvements Sales and Use Tax. The proposed Finance Committee amendments were adopted, and the bill was further amended to provide that the tax may not be imposed for more than eight years. S.940 remains on the Senate Calendar awaiting second reading.
- The K-12 subcommittee of Senate Education met on Wednesday and continued its deliberations of [S.300](#) concerning Common Core. A compromise amendment was adopted by the subcommittee. The compromise would leave the standards in place but require a review by 2018. A news article on the meeting is available [Here](#). The bill as amended by the subcommittee will next be considered by the full Senate Education Committee.
- The Senate continued to debate [H.3945](#) relating to state's ethics provisions and enforcement and disclosure. On Thursday, after further amending the bill, the Senate gave third reading to H.3945 and sent it back to the House with its amendments.