

Legislative Updates of Interest for Higher Education

Week of Mar. 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, 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 for a second time on the Charleston University Act ([H.4632](#)). Commerce Secretary Robert Hitt and CHE Executive Director Richard Sutton provided testimony to the Committee. A copy of CHE's written testimony is available at [Click Here](#).
- [H.3994](#), the Read to Succeed Act, was reported out of House Education and Public Works Committee favorably with amendment and placed on the House calendar.
- [H.4646](#), relating to the Governor's School for Science and Mathematics and members of its board of trustees, was reported out of House Education and Public Works Committee favorably. This bill provides that institutional academic provosts of the State's three research universities who are members of the board may appoint designees to serve ex officio in their places. By the end of the week, the bill was approved by the House and sent to the Senate for consideration where it was introduced and referred to Senate Education.
- [H.4988](#), relating to academic program approval authority for the State's technical colleges, was introduced on Thursday and referred to committee. The bill would amend program approval authority for certain technical college degrees by removing CHE approval authority and providing the Technical College System Office with exclusive approval authority. (Sponsors: Reps. Thayer, Erickson, Sandifer, Daning, Bowen, Putnam and Whitmire; 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 during the week and concluded its hearings with higher education agencies. The Higher Education Budget Subcommittee heard from the College of Charleston, MUSC and AHEC on Tuesday; from Winthrop, Lander, Francis Marion, and Clemson on Wednesday; and from SC Tuition Grants on Thursday in addition to considering budget proviso recommendations. It is expected that the full Senate Finance Committee will begin deliberating its budget recommendations during the week of April 7th.
- [S.940](#), relating to amendments to the Education Capital Improvements Sales and Use Tax, was amended further by the Senate and by the end of the week, was given third reading and sent to the House.
- [H.3919](#), relating to the high school exit exam so as to delete the requirement and make related technical changes, was given second reading by the Senate after the Senate Education Committee amendment was adopted. The bill awaits third reading by the Senate before being returned to the House.
- [H.3592](#), relating to amendments to the Energy Independence and Sustainable Construction Act of 2007, was amended by the Senate, given third reading and returned to the House. The bill makes certain changes to consideration of the use of LEED and Green Globes certification rating systems. In addition, the bill as amended includes the establishment of a thirteen-member Energy Independence and Sustainable Construction Advisory Committee which is chaired by the State Engineer or his designee and includes two appointments, one from either a research university or comprehensive teaching institution and one from a regional two-year campus of USC or technical college, recommended by CHE.