

Legislative Updates of interest for Higher Education Week of May 26-30, 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 during the week of May 19. The House took no further action on the budget bills during the week and the bills remain on the calendar awaiting consideration. The House may further amend the bills before returning them to the Senate, and if there is not agreement between the House and the Senate upon the House return of the bills, the bills would next go to conference committee to resolve any differences before being sent to the Governor. Once the bills reach the Governor, she will have five days, excepting Sundays, to act by signing the bills into law, letting the bills become effective without signature, or, the more likely scenario, issuing vetoes which would go back to the House and Senate for consideration.
- [S.535](#), Clemson University Enterprise Act, was considered on Thursday. S.535 was amended to include the Ways & Means Committee amendment which struck all text and replaced it with provisions to change the facilities approval process for all public higher education institutions. The House further amended S.535 to attach provisions of [H.4632](#) which had previously passed the House and would enable the College of Charleston to become a research university. The House is scheduled to give third reading to S.535 on Tuesday at which point it would be returned to the Senate for consideration.
- [H.3945](#), relating to ethics reform, was sent to conference committee after the Senate did not agree with the House amendments and the House insisted on its amendments. The conferees include Representatives Delleney, Bannister, and Weeks and Senators Hayes, Rankin, and Hutto.
- [S.516](#), Read to Succeed Act, was considered by the House and amended on Tuesday. Debate was adjourned prior to further consideration, and the bill remains on the House calendar pending second reading.
- [S.825](#), relating to the Ad Valorem Tax and property tax for military housing, was amended by the House to adopt the committee amendment which had added provisions of [H.4859](#), Military Family Quality of Life Enhancement Act. S.825 was returned to the Senate, which amended the bill to the version as passed by the Senate and then returned it to the House on May 29.

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 South Carolina 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 May 22. On May 29, the bill was put on the Senate's contested calendar and was not debated during the week.
- [H.5282](#), *Sine Die* Concurrent Resolution, was adopted by the Senate and returned to the House. The resolution, which provides for conditions under which the General Assembly may be convened in statewide session after June 5 *sine die*, had been introduced and adopted previously by the House on May 20. The resolution provides that the General Assembly will return after *sine die* on June 17 at noon and end not later than 5:00 pm on June 19. The resolution enables consideration of the budget bills and related resolutions, vetoes of the Governor, conference reports if the conference committee was named by 5:00 pm on June 5, appointments, and resolutions relating to *sine die* and expressions of sympathy or congratulations.
- [S.940](#), relating to the Capital Improvement Sales and Use Tax, was amended by the House and returned to the Senate which non-concurred with the House amendments.

Other

- On Thursday, 62 bills were ratified and sent to the Governor for consideration. Among these were: [S.1295](#) which adds a member from Fairfield County to the Midlands Technical College Commission, and [H.3893](#), relating statewide education standards and assessments (Common Core).