

Legislative Updates of interest for Higher Education Week of April 28 – May 2, 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 –

- **H.4632**, University of Charleston Act which would designate College of Charleston as a research university received second reading in the House (98-5) was given third on Wednesday and the sent to the Senate where it was referred to the Education Committee.
- **H.4518**, which prohibits lottery appropriations for capital permanent improvement projects at or associated with an institution of higher learning, passed the House (108–0) on second reading. On Wednesday it was given third reading and sent to Senate. Before passing, the bill was amended to include the committee amendment to make clear that Higher Education Excellence Enhancement Program (HEEEP)-funded institutions could use funds for such purposes.
- **H.5152**, Student Empowerment in College Governance Act, was introduced in House this week and would add two student members to each of the university board of trustees. (Sponsors: Reps. Sellers, Putnam and Stavrinakis; referred to House Education and Public Works.
- **H.4840** relating to the High School Equivalency Diploma passed the House and was sent to the Senate.
- **H.4646** which amends provisions for the board of trustees the Governor's School of Science and Math to enable the academic provosts of the research institutions to name designees to serve.

In the Senate –

- During the week, the Senate Finance Committee met and approved its budget recommendations by late Thursday. The recommendations will be posted over the weekend (**H.4701 and H.4702**). For higher education, the numbers improved from the House budget with restoration of about \$25 million including nearly \$8 million in recurring funds. Even with the improvement, and not considering unobligated surplus revenues included in the Senate Finance recommendations if available, operating funding (recurring and nonrecurring) for institutions is about \$6 million below the current year. A brief report on the budget recommendations is included in the CHE legislative report for the May 1 meeting ([Click Here](#)). It is anticipated that the Senate will begin its budget deliberations beginning Tuesday, May 6.
- **H.3893** relating to K-12 standards and assessments passed the House on April 11 and was introduced in the Senate on April 15 and referred to Senate Education. The bill was amended and given second reading on Thursday.
S.1086 relating to requirements for state agencies for reporting security breaches passed the Senate and was sent to the House where it was referred to House Judiciary.
- Bills relating to provisions for the waiver of out-of-state tuition for veterans (**H.3086** and **S.93**) and accountability-based funding (**S.266**) remained on the calendar awaiting second reading.

Other –

- The Budget and Control Board met on Wednesday, April 30. At its meeting a \$6 million loan was approved for SC State University which anticipates a deficit in the current year. For information about the meeting, [Click Here](#). Related articles on the action relating to SC State are available [Here](#) and [Here](#).