

Legislative Updates of interest for Higher Education Week of Mar. 31 – Apr. 4, 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.3994](#), Read to Succeed Act, was brought up for discussion on second reading and debate was requested so the bill was moved to the House's contested calendar for further debate at a later date.
- [H.3592](#) relating to the Energy Independence and Sustainable Act of 2007 was approved as amended by the Senate and enrolled for ratification.
- [S. 940](#) relating to the capital improvement sales and use tax for education passed the Senate and was introduced in the House where it was referred to the House Ways and Means committee.
- The ad hoc subcommittee assigned to review [H.4632](#), the Charleston University Act, met for a third time to discuss the bill. The subcommittee amended the bill to take the required merger of MUSC and the College of Charleston out of the legislation and instead adopted a new version of the bill that would designate the University of Charleston, South Carolina as a comprehensive research university under the College of Charleston Board of Trustees; require a mission statement to be submitted by January 1, 2015 and approved by CHE by April 1, 2015; specify that there will be no change to the College of Charleston as a four-year liberal arts college; state that the University of Charleston may not duplicate any degree programs in the Charleston region; enable the University of Charleston to participate in the Centers of Economic Excellence (SmartState) program; and amend the SmartState legislation to require that the endowed professorships and senior research universities shall seek collaboration and develop partnerships with similar focused programs at the technical colleges to meet workforce demands in the state. The bill was then reported out favorably to the full Ways and Means Committee as amended.

In the Senate –

- [S.810](#) relating to the selection process for college and university boards of trustees was reported out to the Senate from Judiciary as amended with a majority report favorable and a minority report unfavorable.
- [H.3919](#) relating to ending the high school exit exam requirement was given third reading and returned to the House with amendments.
- [S.516](#), Read to Succeed Act, was debated during the week and remained under debate in the Senate by the end of the week.
- [S.1145](#) was recalled from the Education Committee and placed on the Senate Calendar. The bill is similar to the amended versions of [S.300](#) and [S.888](#) which also remain on the Senate Calendar awaiting debate.
- 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

- On Wednesday, the General Assembly elected College and University Board of Trustee members in a joint session. Information about the elections is available in either the April 2 [House Journal](#) or [Senate Journal](#).
- On Thursday, [H.3784](#) relating to the SC National Guard College Assistance Program, [H.3410](#) relating to the transfer of oversight of the Regional Education Centers to Commerce, and [H.3592](#) relating to the Energy Independence and Sustainable Construction Act of 2007 and which would create an advisory committee for Energy Independence and Sustainable Construction were among bills ratified and sent to the Governor for consideration.