

Legislative Updates of interest for Higher Education Week of May 5 - 9, 2014

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In the House –

- On Thursday, the House Ways and Means *ad hoc* K-16 Building Needs and Utilization Study Committee met and considered [S.535](#), Clemson University Enterprise Act. The committee adopted an amendment to replace the text in full (strike all text and insert) with an amendment that would make changes to the facilities approval process for all public higher education institutions. The proposed process would amend the present facilities review process of the Joint Bond Review Committee and Budget and Control Board by streamlining the process to include greater latitude dependent on an institution's bond rating and the type project and source of funds. The proposed amendment will next be considered by the full Ways and Means Committee.
- [H.3945](#), relating to ethics reform was reported out of House Judiciary to the House with a favorable report with amendments. The bill previously had passed the Senate and was returned to the House with amendments. H.3945 is on the House calendar awaiting consideration.

In the Senate –

- On Tuesday, the Senate began its deliberations on the budget recommendations of the Senate Finance Committee ([H.4701 and H.4702](#)). The Senate worked through the week and will resume its deliberations when the Senate convenes on Tuesday, May 13 at 10:00 am. During the week the Senate gave the budget second reading and carried over all amendments for deliberation before third reading. Amendments are presently under consideration and may continue to be proposed given that the Senate has not yet cut-off amendments.

Amendments adopted during the week relating to higher education included: 1) [Amendment #67](#)) to add a proviso directing a Blue Ribbon Study Committee for S.C. State for the purposes of developing and implementing a budget plan; 2) the addition to the priority list of unobligated surplus funds if available ¹ of \$500,000 for The Citadel for its Mechanical Engineering Lab & Equipment ([Amendment #28](#)); and 3) the adoption of provisions relating to Coker College to add to the priority list of unobligated surplus funds if available \$100,000 for Coker for faculty recruitment and retention purposes ([Amendment #57](#)) and to amend the provision for funding for Coker College that was included in the lottery allocations to change the purpose of the \$50,000 provided from facilities maintenance to faculty recruitment and retention ([Amendment #55](#)).

Amendments proposed during the week that remain under deliberation relating to higher education include: 1) [Amendment #10](#) to restore in the Senate budget recommendations the budget reductions included by the House for the College of Charleston and USC Upstate relating to book choices; 2) [Amendment #39](#) to add \$5,000,000 for Trident Technical College Aerospace in the priority list of unobligated surplus fund; 3) [Amendment #43](#) to add \$450,000 for Williamsburg Technical College facilities management building to the priority list of unobligated surplus funds; and 4) [Amendment #46](#) to add a new proviso, USC Energy-related economic development.

¹ *The Senate Finance Committee had recommended a priority list to be funded from year-end surplus funds for any revenues that may come in above those certified by the BEA (i.e., unobligated surplus). The list included \$47.7 million in priorities and the items referenced above from such funds would be added after the recommended \$47.7 million.*

- [H.3893](#), relating statewide education standards and assessments (Common Core) was adopted by the Senate with amendments and returned to the House. The bill presently awaits further consideration by the House.