

Legislative Updates of interest for Higher Education Week of April 7 – 11, 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 –

- On Tuesday, a special subcommittee of Ways and Means (K-16 Building Needs and Utilization) met and considered [H.4518](#). The bill if enacted would prohibit the appropriation of lottery net proceeds for capital improvement projects at or associated with an institution of higher learning. The subcommittee amended the bill to make an exception for lottery funds appropriated for the Higher Education Excellence Enhancement Program. The full Ways and Means Committee approved the bill at a meeting later the same day and reported the bill out to the full House where the bill remains on the calendar awaiting second reading.
- The full Ways and Means Committee also approved at its meeting on Tuesday a subcommittee recommendation to amend and report favorably to the full House [H.4632](#). As introduced, this bill required a merger of the College of Charleston and MUSC. The bill was amended to remove the requirement of a merger and instead enable the College of Charleston to become a research university. The bill is presently on the contested calendar of the House pending debate on second reading.
- [H.3994](#), Read to Succeed Act, was passed by the House on April 11 and sent to the Senate where it was referred to Senate Education.
- [H.4895](#), Military Family Quality of Life Enhancement Act of 2014, relating to various provisions for military families passed the House. Among the provisions is one that would allow for in-state tuition for discharged military by providing a waiver of the 12-month physical presence requirement for discharged military who establish residency in South Carolina. A similar bill ([H.3086](#)) to this provision had previously passed the House and is on the Senate Calendar awaiting second reading.
- [H.3893](#) relating to K-12 standards and assessments passed the House on April 11. The bill includes provisions relating to a compromise on prohibiting Common Core standards that provides for a review process for these standards and includes a provision to withdraw South Carolina from the Smarter Balanced Consortium and prohibit the use of the Smarter Balanced Assessment. Similar bills including [S.1145](#), [S.300](#) and [S.888](#), as amended, also remain on the Senate Calendar awaiting debate.
- The House will be on furlough in the upcoming two weeks and will not meet from April 14 through April 25.

In the Senate –

- During the week, the Senate Finance Committee began meeting to develop its budget recommendations. They began work on budget provisions and will continue its work in the upcoming week. (For FY 2014-15 budget bills: [H.4701](#) and [H.4702](#)). The Senate Finance Committee began meeting during the week to consider its budget recommendations. The Committee will continue discussions in the upcoming week.
- [S.516](#), Read to Succeed Act, was passed by the Senate after being amended to also include provisions for expanding four-year old kindergarten programs were added. The bill has been sent to the House.
- 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

- [H.3919](#) which provides for the elimination of the high school exit examination and related changes was passed by the House and Senate and sent to the Governor for consideration.