

Legislative Updates of interest for Higher Education: Week of Jan. 12 - 16, 2015

(Highlighted & bolded text is linked to source. Bill numbers go to the most recent version on the SC General Assembly website, www.scstatehouse.gov. This report is not intended to be all inclusive. For additional information on the 2015 session, see SC General Assembly website. For information reports on CHE's website, [Click Here](#))

The first year of the General Assembly's two-year continuing session opened on January 13, 2015. The Session ends *sine die* on the first Thursday in June. In advance of the 2015 Session, bills were prefiled by the House and Senate in December (see below). For access to information regarding legislation under consideration and the 2015 Session, see the [General Assembly's website](#). As a reminder, legislation not passed at the end of 2014 died and does not continue in 2015. For summary information relative to higher education and the 2014 Session activity, [Click here](#).

In the House –

House Bills prefiled prior to the session were introduced and referred to committees. For a report on pre-filed bills of interest for higher education, [Click Here](#).

Ways and Means budget subcommittees have begun to hold hearings with some holding meetings prior to the start of the Session. The Ways and Means budget subcommittee for higher education (Higher Education and Technical Colleges) began hearings on Tuesday. The subcommittee heard from the SC Education Lottery Commission and Francis Marion University on Tuesday and from Lander University and Coastal Carolina University on Wednesday. Members of the Higher Education and Technical Colleges Budget Subcommittee include Representatives [Jim Merrill](#) (chair), [Gilda Cobb-Hunter](#), [Garry Smith](#), and [Phillip Lowe](#), and the subcommittee is staffed by Ms. Kara Brurok.

Prior to the start of the Session, the House held its organizational session in December to elect officers and make committee appointments. For a report on the earlier session, see legislative update to CHE at its meeting on January 8 [here](#).

In the Senate –

Senate Bills prefiled prior to the Session were introduced and referred to committees. For a report on pre-filed bills of interest for higher education, [Click Here](#). During its first day, the Senate organized, announcing officers and committee assignments. Information about Senate Committees and membership is available [here](#). Remarks made by Senator Hugh Leatherman, who was elected as President Pro Tempore at the end of the 2014 Session and continues to serve in this capacity in 2015, are available [here](#).

Other bills of interest introduced during the week include:

- [S.274](#), a resolution recognizing 50th anniversary of TRIO programs was introduced and adopted.
- [S.297](#), relating to changes to the process for the review of Regulations by the General Assembly under the Administrative Procedures Act. (Sponsors: Alexander; Referred to Senate Judiciary)
- [S.308](#), the Teacher Protection Act, to provide certain protections for teachers in K-12 through postsecondary education if a student commits a criminal offense against the teacher. (Sponsors: Campsen; Referred to Senate Judiciary)
- [S.324](#), relating to verification of a person's lawful presence in the US by SC employers and also by higher education institutions as specified under SC Code of Laws §59-101-430 so as to prohibit the acceptance of a matricula consular card or a substantially similar document issued by a consulate or embassy of another country as verification of lawful presence. (Sponsors: Campsen; Referred to Senate Judiciary)

Other News:

The Governor's Inauguration Ceremony was held on Wednesday. For the Inaugural Program including remarks by President Pro Tempore Leatherman and Governor Haley's Inaugural Address, [Click here](#).

The Governor released her 2015-16 Executive Budget recommendations prior to the start of the session on January 12. For a copy, [Click Here](#). For a CHE staff summary of recommendations of interest for higher education, [Click Here](#). (See *Weekly and Other Updates*.)

The Screening Report for candidates under consideration for College and University Boards of Trustees was received in the Senate and the House during the week. A copy is available [here](#).