

Legislative Updates of interest for Higher Education: Week of April 13-17, 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](#))

In the House

- On Tuesday, the House Education and Public Works Committee met. Among bills considered were H.3534 and H.3353 which had been reported out of subcommittee during the prior week. [H.3534](#) would add Clinton College as eligible to participate in the Higher Education Excellence Enhancement Program (HEEEP). The Committee voted to approve the bill after amending it as recommended by the subcommittee. HEEEP is a lottery-funded program started in FY 2002-03 that provides funds for program enhancement at historically black colleges and universities pursuant to [SC Code of Laws, Section 2-77-10, et seq.](#) [H.3353](#) adds statutes to pilot programs for GED attainment. The Committee also voted to approve the bill as amended by the subcommittee.
- On Wednesday, the House Education and Public Works Committee Higher Education Subcommittee met and considered two bills, H.3151 and H.3170. The Committee continued its deliberations of [H.3151](#) relating to the teaching of foundation documents by public colleges and universities, and adopted several amendments before adopting the bill to be reported out to the full committee for consideration. Amendments provide clarification regarding application and compliance requirements relating to instruction for K-12 and higher education. With the proposed amendments for higher education, language requiring CHE to prescribe tests was replaced with compliance reporting requirements for institutions to CHE which in turn would report to the General Assembly. The subcommittee also adopted an amendment to require that instruction in higher education institutions must be part of a credit course. Debate was adjourned on [H.3170](#) which relates to authority for program approval of certain applied associate degree programs of the technical colleges.

Introduced in the House:

- [S.437](#) which adds requirements for high school students to take and pass the US citizenship test produced by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services was introduced and referred to House Education and Public Works. The bill as approved by the Senate includes an amendment that was added to provide that public institutions of higher learning may require the US citizenship test be used for compliance with [§59-29-120](#). The amendment required the provision to apply to each student enrolled at a public higher education institution and added requirements that results be reported to CHE for inclusion in the report required by [§59-101-350](#).
- [S.261](#) to amend provisions for free tuition for those sixty years old and over by deleting the requirement that eligible persons must not be full-time employed was introduced and referred to House Education and Public Works
- Senate Resolutions regarding CHE Regulations for the National Guard College Assistance Program ([Doc. No. R4533](#)) and proposed regulations to repeal regulations for the National Guard Loan Repayment Program ([Doc. No. R4534](#)) which is no longer active and was replaced by the National Guard College Assistance Program were introduced and referred to House Education and Public Works.
- [H.3996](#) relating to private college and university campus police officers, so as to provide private colleges and universities may form agreements with political subdivisions for campus police officers to exercise certain powers and authority off-campus but within the political subdivision. (Sponsors: Rep Burns and Dillard. Referred to: House Judiciary)
- [H.4006](#) relating to clarification of the NC and SC boundary was introduced and placed on the calendar without reference. In addition to the boundary clarification, various provisions are included regarding affected entities and individuals. A provision is included relating to higher education residency for tuition and fee purposes. A companion bill, [S.667](#), was introduced in the Senate during the week (Sponsors: Clemmons and Loftis. Referred to: Placed on House Calendar without Reference.)

In the Senate

- *Budget Update:* Senate Finance Committee began its deliberations on the state's FY 2015-16 budget bills (General Appropriations Bill ([H.3701](#)) and Capital Reserve Fund Bill ([H.3702](#))) during the week. The Committee adjourned on Thursday to continue its deliberations in the upcoming week. The Committee considered provisos. For higher education, provisos recommendations from the

subcommittee were adopted ([Click Here](#) for prior CHE report on recommendations and [Click Here](#) for a copy of the provisos as considered by Finance) as were several other proviso recommendations from the subcommittee chair, [Click Here](#) for copies of these provisos. (NOTE: For the prior CHE staff report on the budget bills as adopted by the House, [Click Here](#). For the calendar for the budget process, [Click Here](#)).

Of note, Senate Finance is expected to consider a bond bill as part of its deliberations. **S.657**, a bond bill with details to be determined was introduced in the Senate and referred to Senate Finance. Upon its introduction it was discussed that this bill is expected to travel with the budget bills.

- **H.3663** relating to the removal and replacement of the SC State Board of Trustees was amended by the Senate and given second reading on Thursday.
- **S.261**, to amend provisions for free tuition for those sixty years old and over by deleting the requirement that eligible persons must not be full-time employed was given third reading and sent to the House.
- Regulations for the National Guard College Assistance Program (**Doc. No. R4533**) and proposed regulations to repeal regulations for the National Guard Loan Repayment Program (**Doc. No. R4534**) which is no longer active and was replaced by the National Guard College Assistance Program were given third reading and sent to the House.

Introduced in the Senate:

- **S.667** relating to clarification of the NC and SC boundary was introduced and referred to Senate Judiciary. In addition to the boundary clarification, various provisions are included regarding affected entities and individuals. A provision is included relating to higher education residency for tuition and fee purposes. A companion bill, **H.4006**, was introduced in the House during the week (Sponsors: Hayes, Williams, and Martin. Referred to: Senate Judiciary)