

Legislative Updates of interest for Higher Education: Week of May 18-22, 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](#))

As of the end of this week, there are 6 session days left with the 2015 Session scheduled to adjourn sine die on June 4. A sine die resolution regarding the end of session has not yet been introduced.

Budget Update: The FY 2015-16 General Appropriations Bill ([H.3701](#)) remains in the House awaiting further consideration by the House before being returned to the Senate. The House has an opportunity to further amend the bill before returning it to the Senate. Once the bill is returned to the House, the Senate could concur or non-concur with the House. If the Senate non-concurs which would be anticipated, the bill is sent to conference committee to resolve differences between the House and Senate. Once a conference report resolving the differences is adopted by the House and Senate the bill is sent to the Governor for consideration. The Governor upon receipt of the bill has five days to act, excepting Sundays. Any line item vetoes would then be taken up by the House and Senate and require a two-thirds vote to override.

The Capital Reserve Fund Bill ([H.3702](#)), which provides for appropriations of available funds from the Capital Reserve, remains on the Senate Calendar. The Senate is currently debating the bill.

[S.657](#), a bond bill introduced from Senate Finance after being deleted from the Finance Committee's recommendations for H.3702, remains on the Senate calendar awaiting consideration.

In the House

- On Wednesday, the Ways and Means Committee met and among bills considered was [H.4145](#), which creates a Coordinating Council for Workforce Development and provides for related workforce training and education planning, programs and initiatives. The Committee amended the bill with a strike and insert amendment and passed the bill out of committee favorably. On Thursday, the Committee report was received by the House. The bill awaits further consideration of the House. (The link to the bill provides the Committee amendment)
- [S.47](#), relating to the use of body cameras by SC law enforcement officers, remains on the House calendar waiting consideration. (The House had previously sent the bill to the Senate, the Senate returned with further amendments, and the House may concur or non-concur with the Senate.)
- [S.261](#), relating to an amendment to provisions for free tuition for those 60 years and over so as to remove the requirement that participants may not be full-time employed, remains on the House calendar awaiting consideration.
- [S.437](#), James B. Edwards Civics Education Initiative, which adds provisions to requirements for K-12 students with respect to taking the examination used by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and also includes provisions relating to the use of the examination by higher education institutions in complying with §59-29-120, was recalled on Thursday from House Education and Public Works Committee and placed on the calendar.
- [H.4195](#), relating to the Citadel Board of Visitors, was introduced on Tuesday. (Sponsor: Rep. Delleney. Referred to: House Judiciary)

In the Senate

- [H.3353](#), relating to a program to establish camps for completion of the high school equivalency diploma, was considered by the Senate Education K-12 subcommittee and reported out for consideration of the full Education committee.
- [S.589](#), relating to the establishment of a practice act for Music Therapists, was considered by the Professions and Occupations subcommittee of Senate Labor, Commerce and Industry (LCI) and reported out for consideration of the full LCI committee.
- [S.685](#), relating to Engineers and Surveyors, was also considered by the Professions and Occupations subcommittee of Senate LCI and remained in subcommittee for further deliberation.
- [H.4135](#), relating to the makeup and provisions for the Greenville Technical College Area Commission was recalled from Senate Education, amended, and given second reading.

Other

- [H.3847](#), a Joint Resolution to provide for a temporary exemption for applicants for licensure as a speech-language pathologist assistant from the requirement of having a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution, was enrolled for ratification on Tuesday after the House concurred with Senate amendments.