

Legislative Updates of interest for Higher Education: Week of Jan. 19 - 23, 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 –

Ways and Means Higher Education and Technical Colleges Budget Subcommittee met during the week and heard from Clemson University and the Technical College System on Tuesday and from The Citadel, MUSC and University of Charleston on Wednesday. The subcommittee is scheduled to hear from Winthrop, USC, SC State and CHE during the week of January 26. 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.

Among bills introduced during the week were

- [H3328](#), a Joint Resolution to amend the date by which the State Department of Education must approve the state reading plan under the Read to Succeed Act of 2014 from February 1, 2015 to June 15, 2015. (Sponsor: Allison. Referred to House Education and Public Works. A similar bill, S.349, was also introduced during the week in the Senate.)
- [H 3344](#) relating to the uniform grading scale for public schools that proposes amendments to SC Code of Laws §59-5-68 to require a ten-point grading scale for the 2015-16 school year. (Sponsor: Hayes. Referred to House Education and Public Works.)
- [H.3373](#), the Manufacturing Career Pathway Act of 2015, to add provisions relating to career and education pathways for students within the manufacturing sector. (Sponsors: Rivers, Burns, Loftis, et al. Referred to House Education and Public Works.)
- [H3390](#), the Sign Language Interpreters Act, that would require specified competencies for sign language interpreters used by certain entities of state government, public schools and hospital systems and provide services to members of the public who have certain hearing and speech impairments. (Sponsors: Allison and Atwater. Referred to House Education and Public Works.)
- [H.3414](#) to amend SC Code of Laws §59-130-30 relating to the powers and duties of the College of Charleston Board of Trustees to name the University of Charleston component of the College a research university. (Sponsors: Merrill, Stavrinakis, Southard, Daning, et al. Referred to House Education and Public Works)

In the Senate –

Bills of interest introduced during the week include:

- [S.349](#), to amend the date by which the State Department of Education must approve the state reading plan under the Read to Succeed Act of 2014 from February 1, 2015 to June 15, 2015. A similar bill, H.3328, was introduced in the House. (Sponsors: Peeler, Setzler, and Hayes. Referred to Education).

The Senate did not meet in statewide session during the week. Various committee meetings were held during the week.

On Thursday, after receiving a favorable review in subcommittee, [S.349](#) was reported out of full Senate Education Committee favorably as a committee bill. Also during Thursday's full Senate Education meeting, the committee voted to carry over consideration of three appointments by the Governor to CHE after a motion by Senator Thurmond to provide additional time for consideration. The candidates to be screened included those for a vacant at-large seat, a vacant seat for a president of an independent institution, and seat for a trustee of a comprehensive university. The candidates will be screened at a later meeting of the committee.

Other News:

On Wednesday, the Governor gave her State-of-the-State Address. Her remarks are available in the House and Senate Journals for Wednesday, January 21, [Click Here](#).