

Legislative Updates of interest for Higher Education: Week of Feb. 2-6, 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 continued to meet during the week, hearing from the directors of the University Center of Greenville and the Lowcountry Graduate Center and taking up provisos. Members of the subcommittee include Reps. [Merrill](#) (chair), [Cobb-Hunter](#), [G. Smith](#), and [Lowe](#), and staff Ms. Kara Brurok.

- [H.3200](#) to exempt a public employee of an institution of higher learning who participates in the development of intellectual property that benefits the institution and the State of South Carolina from certain provisions of the SC Code of Law (Sections 8-13-700, 8-13-710, 8-13-715, and 8-13-755) provided that provided that the institution of higher learning retains some royalty rights to the intellectual property. H.3200 was passed by the House and sent to the Senate where it was introduced and referred to Senate Judiciary.
- [H.3534](#) was introduced. The bill amends §2-77-15 et seq. of the SC Code of Laws relating to the Higher Education Excellence Enhancement Program by revising the definition of eligible institutions so as to include an institution that offers at least one nonsectarian program at the baccalaureate level, receives federal Title III funding and has institution accreditation by an organization recognized by the US Department of Education. (Sponsor: Cobb-Hunter; Referred to: House Education and Public Works. A similar bill, [S.185](#), was introduced previously in the Senate.)

In the Senate–

- Senate Finance Higher Education Subcommittee met and considered [S.382](#) to authorize the president of SC State University to institute a mandatory furlough. Also considered was [S.362](#), Proviso Codification Act. Both bills will be considered in Senate Finance on Tuesday, February, 10.

Other News –

[S.364](#), 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, passed previously by the Senate, was passed by the House and enrolled for ratification.

The Joint Legislative Other Funds Oversight Committee met on Thursday to consider interim adjustment requests from selected agencies for increased authorization of other funds. Among the requests considered, the Committee recommended favorably CHE's request for the SmartState® program for nine approved Centers of Economic Excellence for the release of \$6.5 million in previously appropriated lottery funds that have been matched with equal non-state investment by the research institutions for the Centers.

The General Assembly met in Joint Session on Wednesday for the purpose of electing judges and also several college and university trustees. (See [House Journal, Feb. 4](#))

The following Regulations from the State Department of Education were introduced during the week and referred to Senate and House committees: Document No. [4478](#) (Requirements for Additional Areas of Certification), Document No. [4494](#), (Procedures and Standards for Review of Charter School Applications); Document No. [4529](#) (Assessment Program), and Document No. [4530](#) (End of Course Tests); Document No. [4532](#) (Use and Dissemination of Test Results); Document No. [4531](#) (Test Security). *(For a general link to information on Regulations before the SC General Assembly, [Click Here](#)).*