

## **Legislative Updates of interest for Higher Education: Week of Mar. 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](http://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***

- The General Appropriations Bill for FY 2015-16 ([H.3701](#)) and Capital Reserve Fund Bill ([H.3702](#)) were introduced in the House on Tuesday. The Ways & Means Committee held briefings for members on Wednesday and Thursday. Materials used in the briefings are available [HERE](#) (see March 4 & 5 Budget Briefings). The House will begin its deliberations on the budget recommendations when it returns to Session on Monday, March 9, at 1:00 pm. A prior report on recommendations for higher education is available [HERE](#).
- On Tuesday, a subcommittee of Ways and Means considered, [H.3663](#), a Joint Resolution to remove SC State University Board members, devolve the board's power to the Budget and Control Board and to direct the Budget and Control Board to remove the current president of SC State, employ an interim CEO to serve at the pleasure of the board to aid in setting SC State in a new direction with an emphasis on addressing and correcting ongoing financial difficulties in order to keep the university operational and maintain its accreditation. H.3663 was reported out of the subcommittee to the full Ways and Means committee as introduced. On Thursday, H.3663 was recalled from committee and placed on the House Calendar for consideration.
- [H.3464](#) relating to requirements for barber schools and barber school instructors was passed by the House and sent to the Senate where it was introduced on Wednesday and referred to the Senate Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee.
- The House received a favorable committee report with amendment on [H. 3099](#), which proposes amendments to requirements and for the reporting of suspected child abuse cases. The bill as introduced proposed to add school and college administrators as required reporters in addition to others and also to remove limitations on Tort Claims Act immunity and liability for school and college administrators not reporting as required. The proposed committee amendment deletes provisions relating to exceptions regarding the Tort Claims Act. The bill is on the Calendar pending consideration for second reading.

#### *Introduced in the House:*

- [H. 3774](#) to enact the "Construction Career Pathway Act" by adding Article 30 to Chapter 53, Title 59 so as to define terminology, provide a collaborative design of a career pathway for students within the construction industry to connect school districts, technical colleges, vocational schools, junior colleges and four-year institutions of higher education with programs for adult education, workforce development and regional construction industry partnerships to allow a student to earn income while progressing along the career pathway. The legislation specifies requirements and provides that CHE and DEW must post certain information as a free online resource. (Sponsor: Rivers. Referred to: Committee on Education and Public Works)

### ***In the Senate***

- [S. 475](#), a joint resolution concerning SC State University and the removal and replacement of the Board of Trustees was debated by the Senate. The bill was debated on Wednesday and given second reading. The only amendment adopted was the amendment recommended by the Senate Education Committee. On Thursday, S.475 was given third reading and sent to the House.
- On Thursday, the Senate confirmed three appointments to CHE including: Mr. Tim Hofferth, At-Large; Ms. Allison Dean Love, 4-Year Comprehensive Sector Representative; and Mr. Paul Batson, Technical College Representative. Pending Senate confirmation is the appointment of Dr. Evans Whitaker, Independent College Representative. On March 11, the Senate Education is scheduled to screen three additional appointments for consideration of the Senate including Dr. Louis B. Lynn, Research Institution Representative (vice Leah B. Moody); Mr. Clark Bradley Parker, At-Large (vice Ms. Elizabeth Jackson, resigned); and Dr. Jennifer Settlemyer, reappointment At-Large.

- Senate [Education Higher Education Subcommittee](#) met on Thursday to consider [S.391](#) relating to in-state tuition for certain nonresidents and dependents. The legislation if enacted would enable SC institutions to comply with Section 702 of the federal Veterans Choice Act of 2014. The subcommittee voted to report the bill out to the full Education Committee after discussing fiscal implications and adopting technical amendments to the bill.
- The Senate [Finance Higher Education Subcommittee](#) met on Wednesday to begin budget hearings for higher education. The subcommittee is chaired by Senator [John Courson](#) and includes Senators [Darrell Jackson](#) and [Danny Verdin](#) and staffed by Mr. Craig Parks. Francis Marion University, The Citadel, The State Technical College System, and CHE presented. A copy of CHE's testimony and materials is available [HERE](#).

*Introduced in the Senate:*

- [S.521](#), a Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to Section 1, Article XVII of the SC Constitution relating to the qualifications of officers to exempt members of college or university boards of trustees from the requirement that they possess the qualifications of an elector. (Sponsor: Malloy. Referred to Senate Judiciary)

**Other**

- The House and Senate ratified legislation passed by the House and Senate including [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. The ratified legislation now awaits consideration of the Governor. (See [Ratification/Acts \(Excel Spreadsheet\)](#) for a list and actions).