

## **Legislative Updates of interest for Higher Education: Week of Feb. 23-27, 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](#))

*The House and Senate held a short week due to inclement weather and did not hold Session Thursday.*

### ***In the House***

The House Education Policy Review and Reform Task Force, which was created by House Speaker Jay Lucas in reaction to a recent S.C. Supreme Court ruling in favor of poor, rural school districts, held its first meeting on Monday (February 23). The Task Force, chaired by Representative Rita Allison, Chairwoman of House Education and Public Works, received its charge from Speaker Lucas and heard from several guests including former Governor and former U.S. Secretary of Education, Dick Riley, two law professors, and two former S.C. education superintendents. The Task Force is to submit a report on its recommendations to the Speaker by the beginning of the next legislative session. A video recording of the meeting is accessible at <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/video/videofeed.php>.

On Tuesday, House Education and Public Works Higher Education Subcommittee, chaired by Rep. Bill Taylor, met and continued its deliberations on [H.3453](#), relating to student due process. The bill proposes to require that students and student organizations may be represented by lawyers in non-academic student conduct hearings, provides for an appeals process and certain remedies and compensation. The subcommittee voted to adjourn debate on the bill.

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

Senate Education Higher Education Subcommittee met on Tuesday to consider [S. 475](#), a joint resolution concerning SC State University and the removal and replacement of the Board of Trustees. The subcommittee advanced the resolution to the full Education Committee which met on Wednesday. Senate Education voted 10-1 to report the resolution out favorably with amendment. S.475 as of Thursday is on the Senate Calendar for consideration with a majority favorable report with amendment and with a minority report by Senate Malloy.

Also in Senate Education on Wednesday, Dr. Evans Whitaker, President of Anderson University, was screened for an appointment to the Commission on Higher Education as the Independent College representative. Dr. Whitaker's appointment was reported out favorably to the full Senate for confirmation.

#### ***Introduced in the Senate during the week:***

[H.3037](#), relating to in-state tuition for nonresident veterans, was received from the House and referred to Senate Education. H.3037 provides for the waiver of the 12 month physical presence requirement for discharged veterans who are establishing SC residency for tuition and fee purposes and their dependents. As advanced, H.3037 does not address federal legislation ([Veterans Choice Act of 2014, Section 702](#)) which requires states to provide in-state tuition rates to certain veterans, their spouses and dependents who are receiving Post 9/11 GI and Montgomery Bill education benefits. A bill is under consideration in the Senate Education, [S.391](#), which would address the federal requirements. The Senate Education Higher Education Subcommittee was scheduled to meet on S.391 scheduled on Thursday. The meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather and is anticipated to be re-scheduled on March 5.

[H.3191](#), relating to various amendments to FOIA, was received from the House and referred to Senate Judiciary. H.3191 creates the Office of Freedom of Information Act Review within the Administrative Law Court and also makes other changes including but not limited to provisions relating to the assessment of fees by agencies in fulfilling FOIA requests, provisions regarding the timeframe for response and provisions for records that must be made available for public inspection during hours of operation.