

Legislative Updates of interest for Higher Education: Week of Mar. 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. 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

- On Wednesday, the House Education and Public Works Higher Education Subcommittee met and considered **H.3151** relating to the teaching of foundation documents by public colleges and universities. The subcommittee discussed a number of amendments and adjourned debate in order to provide time to draft recommended amendments for consideration at a subsequent meeting. Also considered by the subcommittee were proposed regulations for the SC National Guard College Assistance Program (**Doc. No. R4533**) and to repeal regulations for the National Guard Loan Repayment Program (**Doc. No. R4534**) which is no longer active. The Regulations were advanced favorably for consideration of the full Committee.
- **S.382** to authorize the president of SC State University to institute a mandatory furlough was approved with amendments and returned to the Senate where it was received on Thursday.
- **H.3041** to call for a public referendum amending the SC Constitution to make the Superintendent of Education an appointed rather than elected position was given second reading and by the end of the week was recommitted to House Judiciary.

Introduced in the House:

- **H.3928** amending provisions relating to the regulation and licensure of engineers and surveyors to include revising education requirements for the licensure of engineers. (Sponsors: Reps. Ryhal, Cobb-Hunter, Hardee, Anderson and Atwater. Referred to: House Labor, Commerce and Industry)

In the Senate

- On Thursday, the Senate confirmed appointments to CHE's board including: Dr. Louis B. Lynn, Research Institution Representative (vice Leah B. Moody); Mr. Clark Bradley Parker, At-Large (vice Ms. Elizabeth Jackson, resigned); Dr. Evans Whitaker, Independent Colleges & Universities Representative, and Dr. Jennifer Settlemeyer, reappointment At-Large.
- The Senate Finance Higher Education Subcommittee (Courson [chair], Jackson, and Verdin) continued its budget hearings, meeting on Tuesday and heard from SC State University.
- Senate Education met on Wednesday. Among the bills considered were those advanced by the Higher Education Subcommittee including **S.528**, to add provisions for a textbook policy for public institutions of higher education and **S.261**, to amend provisions for free tuition for those sixty years old and over by deleting the requirement that eligible persons must not be full-time employed. Also considered were proposed regulations for the SC National Guard College Assistance Program (**Doc. No. R4533**) and proposed regulations to repeal regulations for the SC National Guard Loan Repayment Program (**Doc. No. R4534**) which is no longer in effect. Both bills and the regulations received favorable reports with S.528 being amended by the committee prior to being approved. S.261 and S.528 were received by the Senate on Thursday.
- **H.3663** relating to SC State University and the removal and replacement of the Board of Trustees was received from the House and referred to Senate Education. A similar bill **S.475** was passed earlier and sent to the House where it was referred to and remains in House Ways and Means.
- **S.437** to add requirements for high school students to take and pass the US citizenship test produced by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services was considered by the Senate during the week. On Tuesday, the Senate amended the bill to include provisions relating to public higher education institutions so as to provide that institutions may require the US citizens test be used for compliance with §59-29-120, a provision relating to requirements by schools and colleges relating to the teaching of founding documents. The amendment requires the provision to apply to each student enrolled at a public higher education institution and also adds requirements that results be reported to CHE for inclusion in the report required by §59-101-350.
- **H.3847** a Joint Resolution relating to licensing requirements for speech pathologists was received by the Senate and referred to Senate Medical Affairs.