

## Legislative Updates of interest for Higher Education: Week of Jan. 26 - 30, 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

Ways and Means Higher Education and Technical Colleges Budget Subcommittee met during the week and heard from Winthrop University and USC on Tuesday and from SC State University and CHE on Wednesday. A copy of CHE's presentation materials are available [Here](#). The subcommittee is scheduled to hear from the [University Center of Greenville and the Lowcountry Graduate Center and to consider proviso requests on Tuesday \(Feb 3\)](#). Members of subcommittee include Reps. [Merrill](#) (chair), [Cobb-Hunter](#), [G. Smith](#), and [Lowe](#), and staff Ms. Kara Brurok.

Bills of interest introduced during the week include:

- [H.3438](#) a Joint Resolution to impose a mandatory employee furlough program at South Carolina State University of up to five or fifteen days, depending on annual salary, and to provide certain requirements for the furlough program (Sponsor: Cobb-Hunter. Referred to: House Ways and Means. A similar Joint Resolution, [S.382](#), was introduced in the Senate on Jan. 28.)
- [H.3453](#) to add Section 59-103-295 relating to public institutions of higher learning and student due process with respect to disciplinary hearings by providing for requirements relating to attorney and non-attorney representation and to provide for an appeals process, remedies and compensation for certain related expenses. (Sponsor: Forrester, Allison, Hicks, and Tallon. Referred to House Education and Public Works.)

Also during the week:

- [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, provided that the institution of higher learning retains some royalty rights to the intellectual property from certain provisions of the SC Code of Law (Sections 8-13-700, 8-13-710, 8-13-715, and 8-13-755) for public officers and employees was reported out of committee and is on the House Calendar for consideration.
- [H.3184](#) relating to reform of the State's Ethic Act provisions was passed by the House and sent to the Senate.
- [H.3037](#) relating to in-state tuition for nonresident veterans was considered by the House Education and Public Works Higher Education Subcommittee on Wednesday. The subcommittee advanced the bill favorably for consideration of the full committee with a perfecting amendment relating to requirements of federal provisions of Section 702 under the Choice Act of 2014 to be proposed for consideration in full committee.
- House Education and Public Works met on Wednesday in an informational session and heard presentations from higher education and transportation and public safety agencies and entities. Dr. Richard Sutton, Executive Director, addressed the committee on behalf of CHE.

### In the Senate

Bills of interest introduced during the week include:

- [S.377](#) 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: Groom, Campbell, Thurmond, et al. Referred to: Senate Education. A similar bill, [H.3414](#), was introduced in the House on Jan. 22)
- [S.382](#) a Joint Resolution to authorize the agency head of South Carolina State University to institute a mandatory furlough program of up to seven days in fiscal year 2014-2015, and to provide certain requirements for the furlough program. (Sponsors: Matthews, Hutto, Williams, et. al. Referred to: Senate Finance. A similar Joint Resolution, [H.3438](#), was introduced in the Senate on Jan. 28.)
- [S.391](#) relating to in-state tuition for certain nonresident veterans and dependents. (Sponsors: Young, Massey, Turner, Thurmond, et. al. Referred to: Senate Education. A similar bill, [H.3037](#), is under consideration in the House.)

Also during the week:

- [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 was passed by the Senate and sent to the House.
- Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman addressed the full Senate Education Committee at its meeting on Wednesday (Jan. 28) as did representatives of the SC Chamber of Commerce. A video recording is available [Here](#).

### Other News –

Gubernatorial appointments to CHE have been announced and referred to the Senate Education Committee for consideration including Mr. Paul O Batson, III for the Technical and Comprehensive Education seat and Dr. Jennifer Settlemyer for an At-Large seat (reappointment). (Senate Journal, [January 27](#)). Other CHE appointments in process as noted in last week's summary include: At-Large appointment, Mr. Tim Hofferth (vice Guy Tarrant, resigned), and Independent Colleges, Dr. Evans Whitaker; and Four-Year College & Universities, Ms. Allison Dean Love.

The following Regulations from the State Department of Education were introduced and referred to Senate and House committees: Document No. [4476](#) (Defined Program 6-8), Document No. [4477](#), (Defined Program, Grades 9-12 and Graduation Requirements); Document No. [4491](#) (Adult Education), and Document No. [4495](#) (Program for Assisting, Developing, and Evaluating Principal Performance, PADEPP). (For a general link to information on Regulations before the SC General Assembly, [Click Here](#))