

Legislative Updates of interest for Higher Education: Week of Apr 27 – May 1, 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](#))

(Note: May 1st marked the crossover date for consideration of legislation, i.e., bills originating in one body and not reaching the other by May 1 require a 2/3rds vote to be taken up.)

In the House

- [H.3151](#) relating to the teaching of foundation documents by public colleges and universities remains on the House Calendar after members requested debate on the bill.
- [H.3663](#) relating to the removal and replacement of the SC State Board of Trustees was returned to the House with Senate amendments, whereupon a conference committee was named. House Conferees include Reps. Merrill, Cobb-Hunter, and Bingham. Senate Conferees include Sens. Hayes, Jackson and Hutto. The conference committee is scheduled to meet next Tuesday (May 5).
- [S.11](#) relating to FOIA and open meeting requirements was amended, given third reading, and sent to the Senate where it was amended by the Senate and returned to the House.
- [S.47](#) relating to FOIA and open meeting requirements was received from the Senate on Thursday and placed on the House Calendar for consideration without reference.
- [S.391](#) relating to in-state tuition for nonresident military veterans was given third reading and enrolled for ratification. Upon ratification, the bill will be sent to the Governor for consideration.

Introduced in the House:

- [S.667](#) relating to clarification of the NC and SC boundary was received from the Senate and referred to House Judiciary. In addition to the boundary clarification, various provisions are included regarding affected entities and individuals including a provision relating to higher education residency for tuition and fee purposes. (Companion bill [H.4006](#) also resides in House Judiciary).
- [H.4077](#) to make appropriations from the Capital Reserve Fund. (Sponsors: Reps. Quinn and Stringer. Referred to: House Ways and Means Committee.) [H.3702](#), Capital Reserve Fund Bill, was passed earlier by the House as part of the FY16 appropriations recommendations originating from House Ways and Means and is currently under consideration in the Senate.
- [H.4081](#) to require management performance audits of each public higher education institution by the Legislative Audit Council every ten years and to provide for the schedule of reviews. (Sponsor: Rep. King. Referred to: House Education and Public Works Committee)
- [H.4108](#) relating to the establishment of various student pathway programs (e.g., in areas of STEM, Construction, Manufacturing) and provide for the establishment of oversight and regional administration was introduced and referred to committee. Two bills relating to the creation of pathways in Construction and also Manufacturing ([H.3373](#) and [H.3774](#)) were introduced previously relating to specific pathways and remain in House Education and Public Works and are expected to be considered by the committee's higher education subcommittee next Wednesday (May 6). (Sponsor: Rep. Rivers. Referred to: House Education and Public Works Committee)

In the Senate

- *Budget Update:* FY 2015-16 budget bills (General Appropriations Bill [H.3701](#)) and Capital Reserve Fund Bill ([H.3702](#)) were received from Senate Finance during the week. The Senate is scheduled to begin its deliberation on the budget when it returns to Session on Monday, May 4 at 1:30 p.m. ([Click Here](#) for the general link to information on the FY2015-16 Appropriations Bills. See also CHE weekly update of April 20-24 for a brief summary of the recommendations from Senate Finance.)

Introduced in the Senate:

- [H.3534](#) which would add Clinton College as eligible to participate in the Higher Education Excellence Enhancement Program (HEEEP) was received from the House and referred to Senate Education.
- [H.3353](#) which would add provisions to implement pilot programs for GED attainment was received from the House and referred to Senate Education.
- [H.3539](#), the James B. Edwards Civics Education Bill, which would require high school students to take the US citizenship test was amended and given second reading on Wednesday and by the end of the week was approved and sent to the Senate.

- [H.3152](#) relating to General Fund expenditures and to provide for certain limitations and a reserve fund was given third reading and sent to the Senate during the week where it was introduced and referred to Senate Finance.