

## **Legislative Updates of interest for Higher Education: Week of Mar 30 - Apr 3, 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 House is on furlough this week and next and did not meet during the week. The House will return to Session on April 14.

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

- The Senate met on Tuesday and Wednesday before leaving for the week on a break. The Senate will return to Session on April 14. When it returns, Senate Finance is scheduled to meet during the week on the budget.
  - Senate Education Higher Education Subcommittee met on Wednesday. The subcommittee considered [S.171](#) relating to the award of stipends to college athletes and [S.185](#) relating to the Higher Education Excellence Enhancement and institutional eligibility. Both bills remain in subcommittee.
  - [S.437](#) was given third reading and sent to the House. This bill adds requirements for high school students to take and pass the US citizenship test produced by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services. The bill approved by the Senate includes an amendment that was added to provide that public institutions of higher learning may require the US citizenship test be used for compliance with [§59-29-120](#). The amendment required the provision to apply to each student enrolled at a public higher education institution and added requirements that results be reported to CHE for inclusion in the report required by [§59-101-350](#).
  - [S.382](#) to authorize the president of SC State University to institute a mandatory furlough as amended by the House was agreed to by the Senate, ratified on Wednesday, and sent to Governor Haley who signed the bill into law on Thursday.
  - [S.210](#), the Student Association Freedom of Religion Act, was recalled from the Senate Education Committee and was then referred to Senate Judiciary for consideration.
  - [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 was given second reading.
  - Also given second reading were proposed CHE regulations for the SC National Guard College Assistance Program ([Doc. No. R4533](#)) and those recommended to be repealed for the National Guard Loan Repayment Program ([Doc. No. R4534](#)) which is no longer active.
- Introduced in the Senate:*
- [S.640](#), a Joint Resolution to create the Higher Education Safe Campus And College Experience Task Force, to provide the purposes and composition of the task force, and to provide for the termination of the task force upon reporting its recommendations to the General Assembly before January 1, 2016. (Sponsors: Lourie, O'Dell, Setzler, Courson, Shealy, et al. Referred to: Senate Education)