

Legislative Updates of interest for Higher Education: Week of Feb. 1-5, 2016

(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 2016 session, see SC General Assembly website. For information reports on CHE's website, [Click Here](#))

In the House

- On Wednesday, the full House Education and Public Works Committee met, and among the bills considered were [H.4515](#) relating to SC resident tuition and fees for certain non-resident veterans and dependents and [H.4639](#) relating to authority for CHE and higher education institutions to participate in the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement for postsecondary distance education. Both H.4515 and H.4639 were passed out of committee favorably for consideration of the House and were placed on the House Calendar on Thursday.
- The House Ways and Means Higher Education and Technical College Budget Subcommittee continued its meetings during the week and heard from the Technical College System, Clemson University, and CHE. ([Click Here](#) for a copy of CHE's Budget Presentation.) The subcommittee is chaired by [Rep. Jim Merrill](#) who is joined on the subcommittee by Reps. [Gilda Cobb-Hunter](#) and [Phillip Lowe](#). A copy of the amended Ways and Means schedule for consideration of the FY17 Budget is available [HERE](#).
- The Higher Education Governance ad hoc Committee of House Education and Public Works met on Thursday ([Click Here](#) to access a video of the meeting). The committee considered changes to CHE's statutory authority and related provisions to be included in H.4833, which was introduced on Wednesday. The committee referred its recommendations for H.4833 to the Higher Education Subcommittee of House Education and Public Works Committee which will meet on Wednesday, February 10. For additional information about the ad hoc committee, [Click Here](#).
- Bills introduced during the week and referred to committee for consideration included:
 - [H.4795](#) relating to a change in the eligibility requirements of Palmetto Fellows (referred to House Education and Public Works)
 - [H.4782](#) relating to provisions for income tax credits for clinical rotations served by physicians, advanced nurse practitioners, and physicians assistants in certain community-based preceptor programs (referred to Ways and Means)
 - [H.4833](#) referred to as the Higher Education Governance Act for the purpose of amended authorizing legislation for the Commission on Higher Education and related provisions (referred to House Education and Public Works; see also above)

In the Senate

- [H.4145](#) (see above) was introduced in the Senate on Thursday and referred to the Committee on Labor, Commerce and Industry for consideration.
- [S.589](#) relating to the establishment of Music Therapist Practice Act was passed by the Senate as recommended by the Senate Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee and sent to the House where it was referred to the House Medical, Military and Public and Municipal Affairs Committee.
- A subcommittee of the Senate Medical Affairs Committee met on Thursday and among the bills considered was [S.1036](#) relating to instructor licenses for dentists.

Other

- [H.4632](#) a Joint Resolution to revise applicability of certain student assessment statutes for the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school years and to exempt the State Department of Education from state procurement law for certain assessments in the 2015-2016 school year was signed into law by the Governor on Feb 1.

For a listing and information on other bills of interest under consideration during the 2015-2016 Session, [CLICK HERE](#).