

## **Legislative Updates of interest for Higher Education: Week of Apr. 11-15, 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](http://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***

- The House Education and Public Works Committee considered two bills during the week:
  - On Tuesday, the subcommittee advanced favorably with a clarifying amendment, [H.4795](#). This bill, if enacted, amends Palmetto Fellows Scholarship requirements to enable those earning the award to delay college entrance for one year and retain eligibility. On Wednesday, the full House Education & Public Works Committee approved the subcommittee's recommendation and reported the bill out to the full House. The bill is on the House Calendar pending consideration.
  - On Thursday, the subcommittee considered [H.4833](#), Higher Education Governance Act. After a discussion of the bill and the process for bringing the bill to consideration, which included recommendations from an [ad hoc House Committee on Higher Education Governance](#), the subcommittee adjourned debate and H.4833 remains in subcommittee. ([Click Here to access a video of the meeting on 4/12.](#)) The draft legislation provided for clarification to CHE statutes. For other information compiled by CHE in studying and reviewing its statutory authority and obligations, analyzing budgetary needs, and developing new internal policies as well as information regarding H.4833, [Click Here](#).
- Bills introduced in the House during the week:
  - [H.5209](#) to amend current law, 4-10-470, revise criteria for counties in which the education capital improvements sales and use tax may be imposed. (Sponsored by Rep. Funderburk and referred to House Judiciary)
  - [H.5216](#) to be known as the SC Course Access Act to relating to add provisions creating a state course access program and criteria and procedures related to the authorization of courses and to provide for the determination of tuition and fees and related duties for the overseeing agency and schools. (Sponsored by Rep. Atwater and referred to House Education and Public Works)
  - [H.5217](#) relating to capital improvement bond projects (Sponsored by Reps. White and Merrill and referred to House Ways & Means)
  - [S.1166](#), a joint resolution regarding SC State University to provide for annual installment payments on outstanding loans and liabilities made to the university by the State and to extend provisions providing flexibility related to furloughs, was received from the Senate, introduced, and referred to House Ways and Means.

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

- 2016-17 Budget Update: The full Senate Finance Committee began its deliberations on the budget ([Appropriations Bill, H.5001, and Capital Reserve Fund Bill, H.5002](#)), meeting throughout the week ([Click Here for meeting information.](#)) The committee will continue its work in the upcoming week. For the 2016 schedule for consideration of the budget bills, [Click Here](#).
- On Thursday, the Senate received favorable reports on several bills from Senate Education relating to K-12 and advanced by House: [H.4936](#) (relating to SC education goals for high school graduates), [H.4937](#) (relating to the re-establishment of the SC Education and Economic Development Coordinating Council), [H.4938](#) (relating to a survey of higher education students in teacher education), [H.4939](#) (relating to a review of education statutes), [H.4940](#) (relating to the SDE Office of Transformation), and [H.3898](#) (relating to standards and the teaching of founding principles in K-12).
- Bills introduced in the Senate during the week:
  - [S.1224](#) to amend current law, 4-10-470, revise criteria for counties in which the education capital improvements sales and use tax may be imposed. (Sponsored by Sen. Sheheen and referred to Senate Finance)

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