

Legislative Updates of interest for Higher Education: Week of Mar. 14-18, 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

- [H.5001](#), the FY 2016-17 Appropriations Bill, and [H.5002](#), the Capital Reserve Fund, were set for special order to be considered by the House when it adjourns on Monday, March 21 at 1:00 p.m. The Ways and Means Committee held briefings for members during the week. Copies of the presentation materials for these briefings are available [HERE](#) (see March 16 & 17). To access information on the FY 2016-17 budget bills, [Click Here](#).
- The Ways and Means Licenses, Fees, Insurance Tax, and Other Charges subcommittee met on Tuesday. Among the bills considered were [H.4144](#) relating to the assessment of in-state tuition and fees at public colleges and universities, [H.3240](#) relating to the creation of a new lottery game with revenues dedicated to K-12 programs, and [H.3244](#) relating to the creation of a new scholarship program. The committee heard testimony on each of these bills and adjourned debate on each. The bills remain in subcommittee.
- The House passed [H.4521](#), Tucker Hipps Transparency Act, on March 17. The bill was introduced in the Senate on the same day and was referred to Senate Education for consideration.

In the Senate

- Senate Finance Higher Education Budget Subcommittee met twice during the week and heard from MUSC, College of Charleston, The Citadel, Clemson, Francis Marion, SC State, and CHE. A copy of CHE's presentation materials are available [HERE](#). The subcommittee is scheduled to meet again on March 24 to hear from USC, Lander, and consider provisos ([Click Here](#) for the meeting agenda). The subcommittee is chaired by Senator [John Courson](#) who is joined on the subcommittee by Senators [Danny Verdin](#), [Darrell Jackson](#), and [John Scott](#).

Bills Enacted:

- On Monday, March 14, the Governor signed into law [H.4639 \(Act No. 146\)](#) relating to the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA). The legislation took effect upon signature of the Governor.
- The Governor also signed into law on Monday, March 14, [H.3534 \(Act No. 143\)](#) relating to the Higher Education Excellence Enhancement Program and eligible institutions. The legislation is effective July 1, 2016.

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