

Legislative Updates of Interest for Higher Education: Week of Mar 7-11, 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

- House Education and Public Works Higher Education Subcommittee met on Tuesday to continue discussion on **H.4833**, Higher Education Governance Act. The subcommittee voted to adjourn debate. A video of the meeting is available [Here](#). For information relating to the House Education and Public Works Higher Education Governance Ad Hoc Committee which referred H.4833 to the Higher Education Subcommittee for consideration, [Click Here](#).
- House Education and Public Works Higher Education Subcommittee met on Wednesday on **H.4521**, Tucker Hipps Transparency Act. The subcommittee adopted a strike and insert amendment and passed the bill favorably to the full committee. The full committee met later on Wednesday and passed the bill out to the House as recommended by the subcommittee. H.4521 is on the House Calendar awaiting consideration.
- **H.5001**, the FY 2016-17 Appropriations Bill, and **H.5002**, the Capital Reserve Fund, were introduced by the Ways and Means Committee on Wednesday. It is anticipated that the House will debate the budget bills during the week of March 21. To access information on the FY 2016-17 budget bills, [Click Here](#).

In the Senate

- Senate Finance Higher Education Budget Subcommittee held its first higher education budget hearing on March 10. SC Tuition Grants, Area Health Education Commission (AHEC), Winthrop University, and Coastal Carolina University presented. The subcommittee is chaired by Senator [John Courson](#) who is joined on the subcommittee by Senators [Danny Verdin](#), [Darrell Jackson](#), and [John Scott](#).
- The Senate continued its debate during the week on **H.3579** relating to the Department of Transportation and Transportation Infrastructure Bank. By the end of the week, the Senate passed the bill with amendments and returned the legislation to the House.
- **S.1163** relating to the prohibition on hazing so as to expand the definition regarding acts by members of a student organization and to implement penalties for hazing was introduced on Thursday and referred to Senate Judiciary.
- **S.1166** a Joint Resolution to provide conditions for repayment of loans made by the State to SC State University and to provide a process through which the debt incurred may be relieved was introduced on Thursday. The Resolution, which was referred to Senate Finance, also includes provisions to extend flexibility provided previously related to employee furloughs.

Ratified and awaiting consideration of the Governor:

- The House concurred with Senate amendments on **H.4639** relating to State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA), and the bill was enrolled and ratified on Thursday (3/10).
- The House concurred with Senate amendments on **H.3534** relating to the Higher Education Excellence Enhancement Program and eligible institutions, and the bill was enrolled and ratified on Thursday (3/10).

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