



HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY UPDATE

Monday, January 31, 2022

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- House Ed and Public Works Full Committee will convene February 2, one hour after adjournment in 433 Blatt: [H. 4766](#): Amend responsibilities and designee roles to the Coordinating Council for Workforce Development. Was reported favorably as amended by K-12 Subcommittee.

Senate Education Committee

On Wednesday, January 26, the Senate Education Committee voted favorably to appoint Mr. Doug Snyder to the CHE Board of Commissioners. Senate Education Committee Chair Hembree (Horry) submitted a favorable report on the Senate floor Wednesday afternoon, and the appointment was received as information.

House Ways and Means Higher Education Subcommittee Budget Hearings:

The Higher Education Subcommittee continued its budget hearings Wednesday, January 26. Clemson, The Citadel and the CHE presented budget requests, and presentations may be accessed [here](#).

CHE Budget Presentation

Dr. Monhollon introduced Mr. Doug Snyder to the HWM Higher Ed Subcommittee. Chair Gary Simrill (Rock Hill) and HWM Higher Ed Subcommittee members Rep. Cobb-Hunter (Orangeburg) and Rep. Finlay (Richland) requested additional information from the CHE:

- **Near Completer Pilot Study:** Detail about the CHE's request to conduct a pilot study on "near completers" who are South Carolinians who have some college credit but no degree. Dr. Monhollon noted there are approximately 450,000 South Carolinians who are near completers. The Subcommittee requested additional data (how much college credit is needed, what barriers do near completers experience, what colleges and universities that may be able to serve near completers),
- **PASCAL Study on Library Resources:** Draft proviso for PASCAL to provide information about where library resources are physically located throughout the state and how they may be accessed statewide, and
- **Transferability of Credits:** Written comment from the CHE about the revision to Proviso 117.152, requested by the SC Technical College System during their budget presentation. Currently, Proviso 117.152 directs the CHE to

work in consultation with the SC Technical College System to develop policies for credit transferability by March 1, 2022 that “guarantee students who have earned an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree from a public two-year institution of higher learning ... receive a minimum of sixty transfer credit hours at a public four-year college or university and ... be given a junior status at the college or university. Course prerequisites and minimum credit requirements for awarding degrees shall still apply.” The policies must be implemented and effective beginning June 1, 2022.

The SC Technical College System’s requested the following language be added to Proviso 117.152:

“Students covered under this agreement are defined as a student who has:

- 1) earned an Associate in Arts (AA) or Associate in Science (AS) degree from one of the 16 colleges within the SC Technical College System (SCTCS),
- 2) earned a grade of “C” or better in each course applicable to the AA or AS degree, and
- 3) expressed intent to transfer to a public four-year institution.

Graduates from a South Carolina technical college will be granted admission to the public four-year institution and shall expect the following:

- 1) Students who have completed the AA or AS degree shall enter the public four-year institution with Junior standing and will have satisfied the public four-year institution’s General Education Program Requirements,
- 2) All transfer courses that are accepted by the public four-year institution will be applied to the attainment of the baccalaureate degree as appropriate to the student’s major, and
- 3) All transfer students must meet specific admission requirements for their desired major and must take junior and senior seminar courses. The public four-year institution will facilitate a reverse transfer option for SCTCS students who enroll in their institution without completing the AA or AS degree.

Upon successful completion of coursework and hours at the public four-year institution, credits earned at the institution may be transferred back to the originating South Carolina technical college and applied toward an associate degree.”

Workforce Development

House K-12 Education Subcommittee met Thursday, January 27 to address [H. 3796](#). The bill provides LIFE recipients an additional \$7,500 stipend upon graduating from college with a bachelor’s degree in a specified education field.

Dr. Karen Woodfaulk provided testimony about H. 3796. Dr. Woodfaulk noted an additional \$7,500 stipend would be appealing to education majors with a bachelor’s degree. She suggested the Subcommittee consider some other factors such as ensuring graduates would become employed at public schools in South Carolina, and awarding the stipend in a manner that the graduate receives the full stipend amount. Patrick Kelly of the Palmetto State Teachers Association also testified in support of the bill. Subcommittee Chair Raye Felder (York) requested the CHE and the PSTA collaborate and provide a written amendment to address these issues. Several broadcast news outlets covered the meeting and reported on the CHE’s recommendations.

Creation of the Commission for Comprehensive Education

The House Higher Education Subcommittee met Tuesday, January 25 and discussed [H. 3102](#) (Abolish the EOC and the CHE and create the Commission for Comprehensive Education). Rep. Brian White (Anderson) is the primary sponsor of the bill. He explained the purpose of the bill is to integrate separate functions of the public education system, starting with the EOC and the CHE. This integration would be the first step to developing a seamless education system (commonly referred to as P-20) to support students' learning from pre-school through post-graduate studies. Rep. White acknowledged additional state entities also need to be incorporated. Subcommittee Chair Rep. McGinnis (Horry) suggested additional research be conducted to consider other states' efforts to create a P-20 system.

Academic Freedom

The House Education Committee met Wednesday, January 26, with Chair Rita Allison (Spartanburg) presiding. Chair Allison noted the bills were in full committee (and had not been referred to their respective subcommittees) because both K-12 and higher education were included in multiple bills, including the three bills below:

- [H. 4325](#): Adds Section 59-29-12 and prohibits public school districts, public schools and public institutions of higher learning from directing or compelling students to personally affirm, adopt or adhere to Critical Race Theory.
- [H. 4605](#): Adds section 59-29-12 and protects individuals from ideological coercion and indoctrination in places of learning, childcare and employment that indirectly or directly receive or benefit from state funds or accommodations.
- [H. 4799](#): Adds Chapter 35 to Title I and prohibits the state, political subdivisions, public school districts, public schools and public institutions of higher education from affirming, adopting or instructing Critical Race Theory; prohibits the use of Critical Race Theory as a condition of employment or when spending public money.

Chair Allison also noted it was important for the full committee to hear all the information and testimony. The Committee did not take testimony but noted testimony would be accepted at the next meeting, scheduled for February 8, 1.5 hours after adjournment.