



## State House Update

The first general session of the 121<sup>st</sup> South Carolina General Assembly began in mid-January. Here are some updates, compiled from various sources, on a handful of bills of interest to SIC members and the education community:

### *House of Representatives*

[H.3044](#) – This bill would give local school boards the authority to revise the 180 instructional day requirement to equivalent time in hours. Sent to the House by the Education & Public Works Committee 02/17/15 with favorable report (with amendments).

[H.3265](#) – This bill would require students in grades 9-12 be given (at least once during high school) instruction in CPR and include such instruction in the state health and safety curriculum standards. Sent to the House by the Education & Public Works Committee 02/17/15 with favorable report (with amendments).

[H.3432](#) – This bill would require school districts to close on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and Memorial Day. Sent to the House by the Education & Public Works Committee 02/17/15 with favorable report (with amendments).

[H.3537](#) – This bill would grant local school boards the authority to set their own school year start date. Introduced in the House 02/05/15 and referred that same date to the Education & Public Works Committee.

[H.3023](#) – This bill would enact the “Second Amendment Education Act of 2015” designating December 15 of each year as “Second Amendment Awareness Day,” and require public schools to conduct education-related activities and instruction on the US Constitution’s Second Amendment, and to provide for the adoption of curriculum developed or recommended by the National Rifle Association. Prefiled 12/11/14 and referred to the Education & Public Works Committee 01/13/15.

**H.3073** – This bill, the “Equal Access to Interscholastic Activities Act,” expand access to private school students, stating that such students may not be denied the opportunity to participate in an interscholastic opportunity in a public school district if the same activity is not offered in the private school. Before advancing the bill to the full House Education & Public Works Committee on 02/18/15, the K-12 Education Subcommittee, voted to amend the bill so that it would apply to only private school students who are enrolled in a middle grade and who plan to attend a public high school for which they are zoned.

The House Ways & Means Committee began work on the state budget 02/17/15 with plans to send a proposed package to the full House within the week. Among the K-12 education provisos adopted by the Committee was the setting of the Base Student Cost (BSC) for FY-15-16 at \$2,220, up from the current year’s \$2,120.

### ***Senate***

**S.164** – This bill, similar to H.3265, would require instruction in CPR for students in grades 9-12. On 02/12/15, the Senate K-12 Education Subcommittee voted to combine this bill with **S.320**, a bill requiring instruction in the use of automated external defibrillators (AEDs). The amended bill, sent to the full Senate Education Committee, would require “hands only” CPR instruction and awareness in the use of an AED.

To read and/or track other pending legislation which may be of interest to you and your SIC, or to find out how to contact your legislators regarding particular bills and issues, visit the SC General Assembly website at [www.scstatehouse.gov](http://www.scstatehouse.gov).

**SC School Improvement Council**

**<http://sic.sc.gov>**

**800-868-2253**