

March 7, 2008

Volume 2008, Issue 7



2008 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Technical College System of Georgia

Status of Legislation Pertinent to the Technical College System of Georgia

The Week Ahead:

- ◆ *Lawmakers will reconvene on Tuesday, March 11, for day 30 of the legislative session.*
- ◆ *The House Higher Education Subcommittee of Appropriations will meet on Wednesday, March 12, at 1:00 p.m. (Room 506, CLOB Building)*

1 Senate Bills 434 & 435 – Name Change Legislation:

Purpose: Legislation that changes The Department of Technical and Adult Education to the “Technical College System of Georgia.”

Status: Passed unanimously out of the Senate and will now move to the House Higher Education Committee for consideration.

2 House Bill 1183 – Carry Forward Legislation:

Purpose: Allows the technical colleges to continue to carry forward certain revenues from fiscal year to fiscal year as well as write off uncollectible receivables.

Status: Passed out of the House and now moves to the Senate Higher Education Committee for Consideration.

3 House Bill 243 - Removal of HOPE Cap for High School Students:

Purpose: Legislation that exempts from the HOPE cap hours earned through the dual enrollment program for high school students.

Status: Passed unanimously out of the House in 2007 and subsequently passed out of the Senate. However, the Senate version of the bill included language for career academies. No action has been taken on this bill during the 2008 session. However, the Senate offered an amended version of the original career academy legislation from the 2007 session (SB 68) that included the removal of the HOPE cap for dually-enrolled students. The bill was assigned to a House subcommittee for further review. Both bills will remain a viable option for the passage of the HOPE cap legislation.

4 Fiscal Year 2008 Amended Budget:

House and Senate leaders continue negotiations on the 2008 amended budget, which includes no changes for the Technical College System of Georgia. For details log on to www.senate.ga.gov then select budget reports for HB 989 – Higher Education.



Status of Legislation Pertinent to the Technical College System of Georgia (Continued)

5 House Bill 1156 and House Resolution 1245 - Creation of the Higher Education System of Georgia:

Purpose: Legislation that would abolish the boards that control the TCSG and the Board of Regents and replace them with a new Georgia Board of Higher Education. The bill would also consolidate the TCSG and the University System of Georgia to form the Higher Education System of Georgia. State lawmakers from each of the 13 congressional districts would elect one member per district to the newly-created board. The Governor would appoint five, all of whom would be ratified by the Senate.

Status: The most recent version of the bill exempts the Technical College System with the exception of an advisory position on the board. However, the House Higher Education Committee decided to table the bill after a brief meeting last Thursday.

Current Schedule for the Remainder of the 2008 General Assembly

Tuesday, March 11 (the 30th day of the session), is “crossover day,” the deadline for getting a piece of legislation adopted by the chamber where it was introduced. Bills that fail to cross from one chamber to the other by the end of day 30 are considered dead for the session. According to the latest adjournment resolution, the proposed schedule below is through day 38 of the 2008 session:

March 11	Day 30
March 12	Day 31
March 13	Day 32
March 18	Day 33
March 19	Day 34
March 20	Day 35
March 25	Day 36
March 26	Day 37
March 27	Day 38

* *Day 39 and 40 to be determined*

Contact information for the Division of External Affairs:

Laura Gammage
lgammage@dtae.org
 (404) 374-6557

Other Information:

For more information on House and Senate members along with contact information, log on to www.legis.state.ga.us and click on “Find your Legislator”.

For a complete list of Legislators representing each technical college, log on to www.ciclt.net/dtae.

To access live committee meeting broadcasts in the House and live broadcasts from the House and Senate floor, log on to www.legis.state.ga.us, then select Georgia Legislative Network and chose from the menu of broadcasts.