



HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY UPDATE

Monday, February 7, 2022

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- House Ed and Public Works Full Committee will convene February 16, one hour after House adjourns.
- The Complete College America meeting will occur February 16, from 9:30 am – 3:30 pm. To register, contact Mark Swart, Strategic Communications Manager, at mswart@che.sc.gov.

Workforce Development

Healthcare – Nurse Education

- [H. 4869](#) (Nursing Program Authorizations): Allow the State Technical College System to authorize accelerated BSN degree completion programs for students in associate of science nursing degree programs who also qualify as registered nurses.

Education – Teacher Recruitment and Retention

- [H. 3796](#) (Teacher Incentives): Provides LIFE recipients to receive a \$7,500 stipend within 90 days after graduating from an institution with a BA degree and an undergraduate major in certain fields of education.
- [H. 4892](#) (Teacher Loan Forgiveness): Revises loan forgiveness terms and removes the critical need subject area and geographic area requirement. The loan recipient is entitled for 100 percent of the loan plus the interest canceled, if the loan recipient becomes certified and teacher in a South Carolina public school

Academic Freedom

There are five bills related to academic freedom and indoctrination, including the following three bills related to higher education. It is important to note the policy and legislative conversation extends beyond any specific theory, project or initiative.

- [H. 4325](#): **Narrower in scope**, it 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. Defines Critical Race Theory.
- [H. 4799](#): **Broader than H. 4325**, it prohibits the state, political subdivisions, public school districts, public schools and public institutions of higher education from affirming, adopting or instructing Critical Race Theory. The restriction extends to any public institution of higher learning from introducing a course of instruction or study that “teaches any of the tenets of Critical Race Theory.”
 - Prohibits the State, political subdivisions and public education from providing or encouraging attendance to training, workshops, forums or similar programming related to CRT to

employees. the use of Critical Race Theory as a condition of employment or when spending public money.

- Indicates punishment for violation and includes a whistleblower clause to protect employees
- Restricts “state agencies” from receiving private funding for materials that affirm, adopt or adhere to CRT
- Specifically restricts use of the 1619 Project in K-12

- [H. 4605](#): **Is broadest in scope** and considers “freedom from ideological coercion and indoctrination” and addresses gender fluidity.
 - Aims to address issues impacting a broader constituency than the other two bills including “state-funded entities” that directly or indirectly, in whole or in part, receives state funds or grants or benefits from state tax exemptions or nonprofit status, such as public or private institutions of learning, public and private institutions, businesses, not for profit organizations, contractors, subcontractors, consultants, vendors.
 - “educators, administrators, students, childcare providers, employers and employees.... Foster and defend intellectual honesty, freedom of inquiry and instruction.” And a child or an adult has a right to “be presented with instruction that is intellectually honest, placed in historical context and grounded in verifiable facts and have freedom of inquiry.”
 - Establishes a reporting and enforcement mechanism for violations
 - Requires state-funded entities to complete time-specific actions