
APRIL 2017 REGION III PUBLIC POLICY UPDATES



1. FEDERAL UPDATES

- ☐ President Trump rolled back two Obama-era regulations in late March that addressed school performance and teacher preparation programs. The teacher preparation regulation which was issued in October 2016, required teacher preparation programs to be evaluated on academic outcomes of students and the other regulation was to help states identify failing schools and come up with plans to improve them.
- ☐ [AIM HIGH Act \(H.R. 1772\)](#) introduced in late March. The act promotes instructional technology and content that are accessible to the blind and other students with print disabilities.

2. TITLE IX UPDATES

- ☐ The latest version of [Campus Accountability and Safety Act \(CASA\)](#) was released. It would flip the incentives to protect students and professionalize the response to and reporting of sexual assault by establishing new campus resources and support services for student survivors, require fairness in the campus disciplinary process, ensure minimum training standards for on-campus personnel, create historic new transparency requirements, ensure coordination with law enforcement, and establish stiffer penalties for violations.

3. FINANCIAL AID

- ☐ [H.R.413](#) - To establish an Early Federal Pell Grant Commitment Program. No action since introduction in January.

4. STATE UPDATES

Alabama	No updates provided.
Florida	Florida updates can be found on the following website: http://naspafl.org/Public-Policy-Updates
Georgia	<p>HB 280 has been sent to the Governor for signature. It would allow anyone with a weapons carry permit to carry a firearm anywhere on a public college, university, technical school or other postsecondary institution, except for dormitories, greek housing or athletic events. It would not be allowed at preschool space on campuses.</p> <p>HB 114, passed the House, but second reading in Senate. This bill amends the 'Move on When Ready Act' to ensure dual-enrollment students are not penalized by local school systems for taking on the challenge of collegiate coursework while still in high school.</p> <p>SB 186 has been sent to the Governor for signature. This bill provides that students who earned a high school diploma through certain dual credit coursework are eligible for a HOPE grant toward an associate degree.</p>

Kentucky	<p>2017 session came to a close on March 30. SB153, the Performance Funding Bill, has been signed by the Governor.</p> <p>SB147 eliminated the limitation on the number of Advanced Practice Doctorate Degrees and was signed by the Governor.</p> <p>SB107 allows the Governor to remove individual board members if a board is deemed to be out of compliance with regard to statutorily required party, race, and gender proportional membership and allows the Governor to remove an entire board if the board is deemed to be dysfunctional. This bill was signed by the Governor.</p> <p>SB17 is a free speech bill for K-12 and postsecondary that was signed by the Governor.</p> <p>HB206 is a dual credit scholarship bill that allows eligible high school students to apply for scholarship funds to pay for up to two dual credit courses at a rate that is 1/3 the cost of per credit hour courses at KCTCS.</p>
Louisiana	House Bill 34, proposes a constitutional amendment that would overhaul the structure of higher education by consolidating the five boards related to postsecondary education into one board.
Mississippi	<p>Lawmakers included language in the final version of the appropriations bill for the state's financial aid program stating that "no student should receive undergraduate grant aid through more than one state-supported undergraduate program in the same term of enrollment. If a student is eligible for aid through multiple grant programs, the student shall be awarded from the program that awards the larger sum."</p> <p>HB1039 As introduced would require postsecondary institutions to adopt a comprehensive policy concerning sexual violence, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.</p> <p>HB1167 As introduced would establish the Mississippi Higher Education Grant Program for single mothers to receive financial assistance.</p>
North Carolina	No updates provided. Higher Education bills proposed can be found online here: http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/Reports/keywords.pl?Letter=H
South Carolina	South Carolina colleges and technical schools are proposed to receive \$250 million for repairs. The proposed bond bill is the first since 2001.
Tennessee	<p>SB0647/HB1083 authorizes community corrections officers with a valid TN handgun permit to carry a handgun at all times and in all places in TN while in the course of employment and engaged in the actual discharge of official duties.</p> <p>SB1216/HB0530 replaces the Tennessee National Guard Tuition Assistance Act with the Tennessee Support, Training, and Renewing Opportunity for National Guardsmen (STRONG) Act of 2017.</p> <p>SB0307/HB0374 As introduced, expands the sales tax exemption for purchases of textbooks to include purchases of reading materials required for high school or college classes.</p> <p>SB1014/HB0863 As introduced, exempts certain students from payment of out-of-state tuition at state institutions of higher education.</p> <p>SB0824/HB0789 As introduced, beginning in 2018, requires public higher education institutions to report to the secretary of state the percentage of student disciplinary contested cases in which a faculty member or institution employee sat as the administrative judge during the prior calendar year; the data will be reported to several legislative committees.</p> <p>SB0635/HB0660 As introduced, authorizes the governing body of each public institution of higher education to determine the qualifications that students must possess to be eligible for payment of in-state tuition.</p>
Texas	<p>SB6 called the "bathroom bill" has a revised version released in late March. The legislation would require transgender individuals to use the multi-stall bathrooms and locker rooms in schools and other government buildings that match their "biological sex". It passed the Senate, but still needs to be heard in the House.</p> <p>SB18 Passed the House on April 6. The bill would eliminate a state rule that requires universities to use a portion of their tuition revenue to fund scholarships and grants for low-income students.</p>

Virginia	<p>SB1405 was signed by the Governor. The bill requires baccalaureate public institutions of higher education to develop and implement policies that ensure that after a student suicide, affected students have access to reasonable medical and behavioral health services.</p> <p>HB1911 was signed by the Governor. The bill requires each resident assistant in a student housing facility at a public institution of higher education to participate in Mental Health First Aid training or a similar program prior to the commencement of his duties</p> <p>SB1376 was signed by the Governor. The bill prohibits the governing boards of public institutions from approving an increase in undergraduate tuition or mandatory fees without first providing students and the public a projected range of the planned increase, an explanation for the need, and notice of the date and location of any vote.</p> <p>SB1234 was signed by the Governor. The bill creates a passport credit program which requires the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (the Council) and each public institution of higher education to develop a passport credit program that will be offered at each associate-degree-granting public institution of higher education. Under the program, each passport credit course shall satisfy a lower division general education requirement at any public institution of higher education. The bill requires the Council to develop such program by July 1, 2020, and each associate-degree-granting public institution of higher education to offer such program by the 2020-2021 academic year.</p> <p>Bill tracking for the 2017 Legislative Session can be found here: http://www.schev.edu/index/agency-info/legislative/legislative-bills</p>
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To submit state policy updates for the next newsletter, please email [Dr. Leming](#) by the first Friday of every month.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join the Public Policy Discussion at this Summer's Region III Summer Symposium! Registration is open now: <https://www.naspa.org/events/naspa-region-iii-summer-symposium-2017>

If you want to get more involved in public policy at the state level, the following states have State Public Policy Directors that you can contact. Here is the listing of State Public Policy Directors in Region III:

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This monthly newsletter is compiled by the NASPA Region III Public Policy Representative, Dr. Heidi Leming. If you would like to send suggestions for the next newsletter, please email heidi.leming@tbr.edu.