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# JAN/FEB 2017 REGION III PUBLIC POLICY UPDATES

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## 1. FEDERAL UPDATES

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- ☐ **BRIDGE Act:** Bar Removal of Individuals who Dream and Grow our Economy, reintroduced on January 12, aims to provide temporary relief from deportation and employment authorization to individuals who are eligible for the Department of Homeland Security's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals ("DACA") program.
- ☐ **FLSA Overtime Rule.** In a single page order signed by Fifth Circuit Judge Jennifer Walker Elrod, the appellate court granted the DOL's motion seeking an expedited appeal. The ruling establishes a briefing schedule that is shorter than the one that the DOL had requested. Under the schedule proposed by the DOL, all briefing would have been completed by February 7, 2017, whereas the schedule set by the Fifth Circuit requires briefing to be completed by January 31, 2017, which is a week earlier than the DOL had requested. However, this still means that the DOL will not file its final brief and that an oral argument will not occur until after the presidential administration has changed. Trump finds portions of the policy problematic, especially in terms of effects for small business owners.
- ☐ Betsy DeVos cleared the procedural vote in the Senate to be confirmed as the next Secretary of Education. Several Republican legislators have voiced concern over the nominee and her confirmation will likely be a close vote along partisan lines.
- ☐ Liberty University President Jerry Falwell, Jr. has been tapped by President Trump to chair a higher education task force. The Task Force will be charged with identifying reform to the Department of Education's Higher Education policies a procedures.

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## 2. TITLE IX UPDATES

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- ☐ Before leaving office, Vice President Joe Biden, issued a [Call to Action Letter and Event Guide for College Presidents](#). In the 2017 legislative session, state legislators in 8 states- Alabama, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia and Washington- have pre-filed or introduced legislation that would restrict access to multiuser restrooms, locker rooms, and other sex-segregated facilities on the basis of a definition of sex or gender consistent with sex assigned at birth or "biological sex."
- ☐ NASPA and AASCU co-sponsored a set of two panels directed to Senate and House staff on the current state of sexual assault on college campuses. The first panel was a group of College Presidents and the second panel was a group of Title IX Officers, moderated by our own Penny Rue. Inside Higher Ed coverage of the event can be [found here](#).

### 3. FINANCIAL AID

- ☐ [H.R.413](#) - To establish an Early Federal Pell Grant Commitment Program.  
The Early Pell Commitment Program would focus on low-income students in 8th grade by ensuring they are aware of their eligibility and that for least two years, Pell grants would be made available to them if they attend college. In addition, twice a year, low-income families will receive information about the cost of college and student financial aid career programs from state and federal government offices so that those families may plan ahead accordingly.

### 4. STATE UPDATES

Alabama	No updates.
Florida	Florida updates can be found on the following website: <a href="http://naspafl.org/Public-Policy-Updates">http://naspafl.org/Public-Policy-Updates</a>
Georgia	<p>Higher Education highlights from Governor Deal's State of the State Address include: funds for a Women Veterans Coordinator position who will work with female veterans that have suffered military sexual trauma, offering counseling and assistance with veteran's claims and appeals; proposed budgets would bolster resources for cybersecurity, education, public safety, health care, economic development and efficiency in government; and an additional \$11.2 million for various projects and programs across the USG.</p> <p>Legislators have already introduced 63 pieces of legislation in the first week of session, highlights include: <a href="#">HB 51</a> which would require employees of postsecondary institutions, who believe that a felony has been committed by or against a student, to report the crime to the appropriate law enforcement agency or the district attorney of the judicial circuit where the institution is located; <a href="#">HB 37</a> which would prohibit private postsecondary institutions from adopting sanctuary policies</p>
Kentucky	Senate Bill 12 will reorganize the University of Louisville board of trustees by establishing a new, 10-member board.
Louisiana	In response to Act 619, which specifically requests a comprehensive analysis of the postsecondary system, the Louisiana Board of Regents released <a href="#">a draft of the report</a> that is available now for public comment.
Mississippi	<a href="#">HB223</a> , "VISION 2020: An Education Blueprint for Two Thousand Twenty" filed; <a href="#">HB420</a> , to establish the Mississippi English Language Learner Scholarship Program; <a href="#">HB 600</a> to create the "Mississippi First Higher Education Act" which would establish anti-discrimination and other admissions standards for postsecondary institutions.
North Carolina	HB 2, which excludes lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people from statewide nondiscrimination protections, has been at the center of a political firestorm since Gov. Pat McCrory signed it into law last in March. The legislature's failure to repeal HB2 in a special session in December, means many question whether a repeal to the law will be possible this session.
South Carolina	No updates.
Tennessee	Governor Bill Haslam announced in his State of the State Address the creation of Reconnect Program for Adults that will allow for qualifying adults to receive a community college education for free. If passed, it will be the first program of its kind in the nation. Several gun bills have been introduced again this session: Veteran Carry Bill ( <a href="#">HB0170</a> ); Carry without Permit; Open or Concealed ( <a href="#">SB0131</a> ); Permit Holder Carry Concealed ( <a href="#">HB0363</a> )
Texas	<p>Bill 6 (<a href="#">SB6</a>), The bill is colloquially titled "The Texas Privacy Bill." The bill would restrict trans-identified people from utilizing restrooms and changing facilities that align with their gender identity. This applies to public colleges and universities, and public K-12 and charter schools.</p> <p><a href="#">HJR 54</a> proposes a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of certain property owned by or leased to or by a university research technology corporation; <a href="#">SJR 24</a> proposes a constitutional amendment providing for certain excess revenue to be dedicated toward contributions to state retirement systems, the health benefit plan for retired education employees and their dependents, the Texas tomorrow fund, the permanent school fund, and the permanent university fund; <a href="#">HB 42</a> proposes a</p>

	franchise tax credit for certain taxable entities offering postsecondary tuition assistance; <a href="#">HB 66</a> proposed the appointment by certain elected officials of students to receive a Texas Armed Services Scholarship; <a href="#">HB 112</a> proposes a limitation on the amount of tuition charged by public institutions of higher education; <a href="#">HB 120</a> proposes non-medical exemptions from immunization requirements.
Virginia	Bill tracking for the 2017 Legislative Session can be found here: <a href="http://www.schev.edu/index/agency-info/legislative/legislative-bills">http://www.schev.edu/index/agency-info/legislative/legislative-bills</a>

To submit state policy updates for the next newsletter, please email [Dr. Leming](#) by the first Friday of every month.

## 5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

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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:

Dr. Jody Conway	Florida - University of South Florida	jodyconway@usf.edu
Darryl Holloman	Georgia – Georgia State University	dholloman@gsu.edu
Neil Jamerson	South Carolina - Furman	neil.jamerson@furman.edu
Dr. Heidi Leming	Tennessee - TBR	hleming@tbr.edu
Dr. Thomas Moorman	Texas - University of North Texas	Thomas.moorman@unthsc.edu

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](mailto:heidi.leming@tbr.edu).