
JAN/FEB 2018

REGION III

PUBLIC POLICY UPDATES



1. FEDERAL UPDATES

- ☐ [Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act \(H.R. 38\)](#), which mandates all states that issue concealed carry permits or licenses to honor the ability for individuals who qualify to carry a concealed weapon in their home state when crossing state lines, passed the House on December 6, 2017. Though they have different licensing requirements, every state allows citizens to carry concealed firearms and twelve states do not require gun owners to take special training or to obtain a license or permit before carrying a concealed weapon.
- ☐ Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA), H.R. 4508 or the [Promoting Real Opportunity, Success and Prosperity Through Education Reform \(PROSPER\) Act](#). There were several January hearings in the Senate Higher Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee around the upcoming re-authorization of the Higher Education Act (HEA). While there is not yet legislative text for a Senate bill, both parties have released their priorities for HEA reauthorization, which are farther apart than had been hoped and may stall or prevent a bipartisan bill emerging from the HELP Committee this spring. The House GOP passed their version of a bill to reauthorize HEA, the "PROSPER Act" out of the Education and the Workforce Committee in December. NASPA highlighted concerns with both the process and the details of the PROSPER Act in January's free live Policy Briefing on January 25; a recording of the briefing should be available soon in the NASPA Online Learning Community.
- ☐ Action on DREAM Act: ACE-led higher education consortium [letter](#) urging Congress to find a bipartisan solution for Dreamers. A bill that would allow undocumented individuals to receive in-state tuition died in committee in Mississippi (MS HB 33) on January 30, 2018. Bills to allow the same are under consideration in Florida ([FL HB 363](#)), Indiana (IN SB 227 / IN HB 1205), New Jersey (NJ S 699), New York (NY S 1350), and Virginia ([VA SB 237](#) / [VA HB 1447](#)).
- ☐ ADA Education and Reform Act of 2017 ([H.R. 620](#)), requires the Department of Justice to educate businesses on their failure to comply with a quarter century old ADA Standards of Accessible Design, updated with much fanfare in 2010, its key provision significantly restricts the ability of individuals to enforce their civil rights in court. This bill passed in the House on February 15, 2018 and goes to the Senate next for consideration. The Association on Higher Education and Disability has spoken out publicly against this legislation.

2. TITLE IX UPDATES

- ☐ A lawsuit filed in late January in federal district court seeks to reverse new campus sexual assault policies issued by Education Secretary Betsy DeVos last year. Three public interest law groups brought the lawsuit on behalf of SurvJustice, Equal Rights Advocates and the Victim Rights Law Center.

3. FINANCIAL AID

- ☐ HB 4508, referred to as the PROSPER Act has many financial aid implications. NASFAA's summary is included [here](#) for reference. A markup of the bill took place on December 12, 2017.

4. STATE UPDATES

Most state legislatures across the country began their [2018 sessions](#) in January.

Alabama	No updates provided.
Florida	Campus Free Expression bill filed in December 2017. Florida updates can be found on the following website: https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2017/00002
Georgia	<p>The House Appropriations Committee met this week and passed the FY 2018 Amended budget. The original FY 2018 budget approved during the 2017 Session set spending at \$24.9 billion. HB 683, the Amended FY 2018 budget, recognizes \$306.7 million in additional revenue or 1.2 percent over the original FY 2018 budget. This brings the total appropriation for Amended FY 2018 to \$25.3 billion. Included in the budget of interest to the University System of Georgia (USG) and Georgia State University is an additional \$10.7 million to the Georgia Student Finance Commission to meet projected dual enrollment needs. The House added \$10 million for graduate medical education at Augusta University and \$2 million to the Technical College System of Georgia to purchase four mobile welding laboratories for HOPE Career Grant welding training on site throughout the state. The House is expected to vote on the amended budget early this week.</p> <p>SB 215, would prohibit an institution within the university system to increase the cost of tuition for any student seeking an associate or baccalaureate degree beyond the cost established as an entering freshman.</p> <p>SR 255, an amendment to the Constitution, authorizes the General Assembly to regulate the amount of tuition and fees for institutions of the University System of Georgia.</p> <p>HB 700, sponsored by Rep. Dave Belton (R-Buckhead), allows members of the Georgia National Guard who are enrolled in a graduate degree program at an eligible postsecondary institution to apply for a service cancelable loan. The service cancelable loan can be revoked if the recipient fails to maintain good standing as a member of the Georgia National Guard for the required period or fails to maintain good academic standing. The loan will be canceled after a period of two years following the last year of study. The bill passed the House Higher Education Committee and is now eligible for consideration in the House Rules Committee.</p> <p>SB 354, sponsored by Sen. Lester Jackson (D-Savannah), would require that the Technical College System of Georgia classify active duty service members for the purposes of in-state tuition. It also requires that TCSG report to the Governor, President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives the total number and dollar value of the waiver of the out-of-state tuition fees for active duty service members that have been provided for with this change. Assigned to the Senate Higher Education Committee.</p> <p>HB 778, sponsored by Rep. Terry England (R-Auburn), would transfer the career, technical and agricultural education program from the State Board of Education to the State Board of Technical College System of Georgia. Assigned to the House Higher Education Committee.</p>
Kentucky	No updates provided.
Louisiana	No updates provided.
Mississippi	<p>Mississippi House Bill 1508 (MS HB 1508), known as "The Mississippi First Higher Education Act", would have removed policies which support affirmative action, multiculturalism and sanctuary of undocumented immigrants, but it failed in committee on January 30, 2018.</p> <p>MS HB 697 which died in committee on 01/30/2018 would have authorized license holders to carry on campuses of higher education institutions.</p>

North Carolina	No updates provided.
South Carolina	<p>South Carolina House bill 4440 (SC H 4440) eliminates ability of campuses to designate free speech zones by requiring campuses to establish appropriate policies and procedures around campus free speech incidents.</p> <p>Jeff Schilz, the executive director of the state Commission on Higher Education, has been holding town halls across the state to discuss tuition increases. In-state tuition in South Carolina has more than tripled, from \$3,265 to \$11,954, even after adjusting for inflation. South Carolina ranks second highest behind Virginia in tuition among southeastern states.</p>
Tennessee	The legal status of sanctuary jurisdictions is still unsettled and there has been little movement to advance bills related to sanctuary jurisdictions since the start of the 2018 state legislative sessions. Tennessee House Bill 271 (TN HB 271), first introduced on January 31, 2017, picked up a new sponsor on January 30, 2018 but has otherwise not progressed.
Texas	No updates provided.
Virginia	State Council for Higher Education in Virginia (SCHEV) legislative update includes tracking of bills related to Virginia Savings Plan; Virginia Longitudinal Data system; Virginia Community College System; student loans; and emergency response excercises.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Weekly posts to the RPI blog (<http://www.naspa.org/rpi>)

Sign up to learn more about the issues above at NASPA's upcoming [free live briefings](#) on immigration and international students (March 13, 2018), free speech and intellectual diversity on campus (May 10, 2018), and engaging in state advocacy (June 14, 2018).

Monthly Public Policy Briefing Series

- Sign up: <https://olc.naspa.org/catalog/naspa-policy-briefing-series>

[NASPA Hill and National Student Affairs Day of Action](#) (July 16-17, 2018), an opportunity for NASPA members to advocate with their Congressional delegations. We haven't yet begun to promote it through the various NASPA communications channels, but you are welcome to start sharing it with those you think might be interested. In addition to the in-person event, we'll be offering monthly live briefings throughout the spring and will be making letter templates and other materials available for student affairs professionals to use to reach out to their state and federal elected officials as part of the National Student Affairs Day of Action on July 17, 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:

Dr. Jody Conway	Florida - University of South Florida	jodyconway@usf.edu
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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 hleming@tbr.edu.