
OCTOBER 2016

REGION III

PUBLIC POLICY UPDATES



1. FEDERAL UPDATES

- ☐ In total, only three higher education bills have been enacted in the last 6 months, 2 have passed both chambers, 10 have passed one chamber, and 17 have been introduced. Topics range from research, transparency, low-income student completion gap, mental health to public safety. Highlights are included here:
 - Student Borrower Protections (see updates under Section 3 “Financial Aid”)
 - Closing the Completion Gap – \$7 million in [grants](#) to support success of students with disabilities; [ASPIRE Act of 2016](#) aims to increase access for low-income and marginalized students
 - [Mental Health First Aid Act of 2015](#) ordered to be amended and reauthorized to provide continuing education and training for emergency service personnel, police, teachers and administrators, students, parents, and veterans.

2. TITLE IX UPDATES

- ☐ In 2016, 22+ states introduce or enacted legislation; 16 states include measures that address 4 primary themes: defining affirmative consent; role of local law enforcement; transcription notation; and role of legal council. For more information, check out [ECS Final Report: Partnership to Elevate Policy and Practice, Campus Sexual Violence and Guns on Campus](#).

3. FINANCIAL AID

- ☐ [Student Loan Repayment Act of 2016](#), introduced September 27, 2016. Aims to amend the IR Code of 1986 to include student loan repayers as a targeted group to receive the work opportunity credit and to prevent taxation for student loan program startup costs.
- ☐ “[Student Aid Bill of Rights](#)” proposed in March 2015, last action was October 2016 release of requirement for [Federal Student Loan Servicing System](#) and [final regulations](#) to protect student loan borrowers from predatory institutions.
- ☐ [SIMPLE Act](#), introduced September 8. No updates since last newsletter. Aims to reduce student loan default by enrolling new students who are delinquent into income-driven repayment plans and automating annual recertification of income.

4. STATE UPDATES

Alabama	No updates.
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Florida	Senate Committee on Higher Education bills can be tracked online at: https://www.flsenate.gov/Committees/Show/HE/?Tab=CommBills House Committee on Higher Education bills can be tracked online at: http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Committees/committeesdetail.aspx?Committeed=2848
Georgia	No updates.
Kentucky	No updates.
Louisiana	No updates.
Mississippi	No updates.
North Carolina	No updates.
South Carolina	No updates.
Tennessee	No updates.
Texas	No updates.
Virginia	No updates.

To submit state policy updates for the next newsletter, go to the Region III Public Policy [Google Form](#).

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.