
MARCH/APRIL 2016

REGION III

PUBLIC POLICY UPDATES



1. FEDERAL UPDATES

- ☐ At this year's NASPA Conference, there was a session with ECS on the [Guns on Campus: The Architecture and Momentum of State Policy Action](#) report. The report shows two principle categories: 1. Allowance for carrying concealed carry, and 2. Prohibition against.
- ☐ The Department of Labor's proposed change to the salary threshold for exempt employees is being closely followed by higher education leaders and NASPA. A recent CUPA study found that nearly 50 common professional-level positions on campus may see their status change from exempt to non-exempt if the rule goes into effect in its current form. [Full article can be found here.](#)

2. TITLE IX UPDATES

- ☐ No federal updates on Title IX legislation this month.
- ☐ At this year's NASPA Conference, there was a session on Campus Sexual Violence legislation. There are four common areas for policy activity: 1. Defining affirmative consent; 2. Transcript notation; 3. Role of local law enforcement; 4. Role of legal counsel; and 5. Miscellaneous legislation. A total of 20 states have introduced legislation.

3. FINANCIAL AID

- ☐ The White House has issued a "Student Debt Challenge" and encourages higher education institutions to sign on by register through the [Student Debt Challenge website.](#)
- ☐ Financial Aid Simplification and Transparency Act of 2015 (S.108) – no action since January 2015. All bills can be found here: www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress

4. STATE UPDATES

Alabama	No updates.
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	Firearms, carrying, possession, and use of electroshock weapons by persons who are students or who are employed at a public institution (HB792) – Passed and sent to Governor for signature.

	<p>Carrying and possession of certain weapons in property owned or leased to public institutions of postsecondary education (HB859) – Passed and sent to Governor for signature.</p> <p>HOPE eligibility for home study students (HB798) – Passed and sent to Governor for signature.</p> <p>http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/en-US/Search.aspx</p> <p>In March, the University System of Georgia adopted two policies that address how colleges handle sexual assault allegations.</p>
Kentucky	<p>Develop statewide policy for postsecondary institution to provide academic credit for military service (HB127) – Passed in House; Senate passed over and retained in the Orders of the Day on 4/1/16.</p> <p>https://legiscan.com/</p>
Louisiana	<p>Abolishes the Board of Regents and the management boards and transfers their powers, duties, and responsibilities to a newly created Louisiana Postsecondary Education Board of Trustees. (HB152/HB169/SB67) Referred to the Committee on Education on 3/14/16.</p> <p>Creates the Bet on Louisiana's Future Fund for the deposit of certain gaming proceeds. (HB276) – withdrawn in the House on 3/15/16.</p> <p>HB2 Repeals the Student Assessment for a Valuable Education (SAVE) credit program. Passed both House and Senate.</p> <p>https://legiscan.com/</p>
Mississippi	<p>To Provide That Nonresident Students Of Professional Schools Or Colleges At State-supported Institutions Of Higher Learning Shall Not Receive The Out-of-state Tuition Waiver For Veterans With Exceptions; And For Related Purposes. Passed by House and Senate. Signed by Governor on 4/5/16.</p>
North Carolina	<p>In a special session, the North Carolina legislature passed HB2, known as the Public Facilities Privacy and Security Act, reverses a Charlotte ordinance that had extended some rights to people who are gay or transgender, by making it illegal for cities to expand upon state laws. The new laws sets a statewide definition of classes of people who are protected against discrimination, but does not include sexual orientation. As such, transgender people who have not taken steps to surgically or legally change the gender on their birth certificate will have no legal right under state law to use public restrooms of the gender with which they identify. It was signed into law by Governor McCrory.</p>
South Carolina	<p>No updates.</p>
Tennessee	<p>Legislature is expected to finish by April 22. The following bills are moving to the Governor for signature: FOCUS Act (HB2578) will restructure higher education governance structure in Tennessee. Faculty/Staff Carry (HB1736) is expected to pass and go to the Governor and the student guns in trunks legislation passed. A summer task force will examine tuition discounts and fee waiver programs; HB 2414/SG 2387 will require students to use the bathroom of the gender listed on their birth certificate, but now has a fiscal note attached to and has been placed behind the budget.</p> <p>https://apps.tn.gov/tnttrack/</p>
Texas	<p>No updates.</p>
Virginia	<p>HB 1321 Clarifies that nonprofit private institutions of higher education that have security departments instead of campus police forces are required to enter into a memorandum of understanding with a law-enforcement agency that requires such agency to notify the local attorney for the Commonwealth within 48 hours of beginning any investigation involving felony criminal sexual assault occurring on campus property or other property related to the institution. Signed by Governor on 3/7/16.</p> <p>Pay It Forward, Pay It Back (SJR86); Directs the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia to study the feasibility of implementing a "Pay It Forward, Pay It Back" higher education tuition financing model to increase access to educational opportunities and to decrease the debt burden on students in the Commonwealth. Rolled to 2017 in Rules by voice vote.</p> <p>HB 1102 Requires the Department of Criminal Justice Services, in consultation with the State Council of Higher Education and the Virginia Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators, to develop multidisciplinary curricula on trauma-informed sexual assault investigation. Signed by Governor on 3/29/16.</p>

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

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

NASPA Region III Summer Symposium

June 12-15, 2016

Dollywood's DreamMore Resort, Pigeon Forge, TN

Early-bird registration deadline is April 29!

<http://www.naspa.org/events/2016-naspa-region-iii-summer-symposium>

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.