

**HIGHER EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FY 2025-26
TO THE PROVISO SUBCOMMITTEE**

SECTION 11 - H030 - COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

11.6. AMEND (CHE: Need-Based Grants for Foster Youth) Provides for the distribution of up to \$100,000 of available need based grants funds to foster youth in the custody of DSS who are attending a higher education institutions in the state.

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: AMEND proviso to update funding amounts.

11.6. (CHE: Need-Based Grants for Foster Youth) For the current academic year, youth in the custody of the Department of Social Services and attending a higher education institution in South Carolina are eligible for additional need-based grants funding of up to ~~\$2,000~~ \$3,500 above the ~~\$3,500~~ annual maximum. Foster youth must apply for these funds no later than May first, of the preceding year. All other grants, both state and federal, for which these foster youth are eligible must be applied first to the cost of attendance prior to using the additional need-based grant funding. If the cost of attendance for a foster youth is met with other grants and scholarships, then no additional need-based grant may be used. The Department of Social Services, in cooperation with the Commission on Higher Education will track the numbers of recipients of this additional need-based grant to determine its effectiveness in encouraging more foster youth to pursue a secondary education. No more than ~~\$100,000~~ \$250,000 may be expended from currently appropriated need-based grants funding for this additional assistance.

11.17 AMEND (CHE: Prohibition on Discriminatory Practices) Directs CHE to print and distribute the definition of anti-Semitism to all SC public colleges and universities and provide the detailed definition of anti-Semitism for this purpose. Directs SC public colleges and universities to take the definition into consideration when deciding whether there has been a violation of policy prohibiting discriminatory practices on the basis of religion. Directs that this provision does not violate anyone’s First Amendment rights provided in the U.S. and S.C. Constitutions.

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: AMEND proviso to delete the requirement to print for distribution the definition of anti-Semitism. Requested by the Commission on Higher Education.

11.17. (CHE: Prohibition of Discriminatory Practices) (A) In the current fiscal year and from the funds appropriated to the Commission on Higher Education, the commission shall ~~print and~~ distribute to all South Carolina public colleges and universities the definition of anti-Semitism.

(B) For purposes of this proviso, the term “definition of anti-Semitism” includes:

(1) a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of anti-Semitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities;

(2) calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews;

(3) making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as a collective;

(4) accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, the state of Israel, or even for acts committed by non-Jews;

(5) accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust;

(6) accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interest of their own nations;

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- (7) using the symbols and images associated with classic anti-Semitism to characterize Israel or Israelis;
- (8) drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis;
- (9) blaming Israel for all inter-religious or political tensions;
- (10) applying double standards by requiring of it a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation;
- (11) multilateral organizations focusing on Israel only for peace or human rights investigations; and
- (12) denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, and denying Israel the right to exist, provided, however, that criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as anti-Semitic.

(C) South Carolina public colleges and universities shall take into consideration the definition of anti-Semitism for purposes of determining whether the alleged practice was motivated by anti-Semitic intent when reviewing, investigating, or deciding whether there has been a violation of a college or university policy prohibiting discriminatory practices on the basis of religion.

(D) Nothing in this proviso may be construed to diminish or infringe upon any right protected under the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States or Section 2, Article I of the South Carolina Constitution, 1895.

11.19 DELETE (CHE: Battelle Alliance at Savannah River National Lab) Directs 20% of the funds appropriated for the Battelle Alliance to be allocated to South Carolina State, 40% shall be allocated to USC, and 40% shall be allocated to Clemson University. Requires the funds to be expended collaboratively to conduct research and develop workforce training programs to fill engineering, science, research, and management positions. Requires the universities to submit a plan and timeline to CHE and its Board of Commissioners on how the funds will be utilized to further the mission prior to receiving any funds, and requires the plan to be reviewed by Battelle. Requires the plan to also be submitted to JBRC and SFAA for approval before funds can be allocated or expended. States that if the plan is not approved by June 30 by all entities, the funds must be remitted back to the general fund.

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: DELETE proviso. Requested by the Commission on Higher Education.

~~**11.19.** (CHE: Battelle Alliance at Savannah River National Lab) Of the funds appropriated for the Battelle Alliance, twenty percent shall be allocated to South Carolina State University, forty percent to the University of South Carolina, and forty percent to Clemson University. The funds must be expended collaboratively to conduct research partnerships and develop workforce training programs designed to fill engineering, science, research, and management positions. The three universities shall provide the Battelle Alliance with accredited academic personnel, intellectual capital, and resources necessary to build out research capabilities and programs.~~

~~Prior to the allocation or expenditure of any funds, the three universities shall collaborate and submit to the Commission on Higher Education a comprehensive plan and timeline for how the funds will be utilized to further the mission and support of the Savannah River National Lab. The plan also must be reviewed by Battelle for alignment with laboratory missions and university goals. This collaborative plan must be submitted to the Commission on Higher Education and approved by its Board of Commissioners. After approval of the plan, the commission shall submit the plan to the Joint Bond Review Committee for review and comment and to the State Fiscal Accountability Authority for approval before any funds can be allocated or expended. If the plan is not approved by June 30, 2024 by the Commission on Higher Education, Joint Bond Review Committee, and State Fiscal Accountability Authority, all funds must then be remitted back to~~

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the general fund of the state. Funds allocated for this purpose shall not be transferred or utilized for any other purpose.

SECTION 19 – H240 – SOUTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY

19.1 CARRIED OVER/AMEND (SCSU: Truth Hall and Green Student Center) Allows carried forward and appropriated funds for the purpose of maintenance, repairs, and renovations to be expended on Truth Hall and Green Student Center. Allows funds to be carried forward and expended for the same purposes.

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: CARRIED OVER/AMEND proviso to include Turner Hall and Whittaker Library in the maintenance, repairs, and renovations.

19.1. (SCSU: ~~Truth Hall and Green Student Center~~ *Facilities Maintenance, Repair, and Renovation*) Any appropriations carried forward from prior fiscal years or received in the current fiscal year by South Carolina State University for maintenance, repairs, and renovations may be expended on Truth Hall and Green Student Center, *Turner Hall, and Whittaker Library*. Any excess funds may be carried forward by the University and expended for the same purposes.

SECTION 20 - H450 - UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

20.tac CARRIED OVER/ADD (USC: SC Teacher TEACHER Advisory Committee) **SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** CARRIED OVER/ADD new proviso to create an advisory committee to study recommend policy changes to enhance the teaching of the educator workforce. Provides for the composition of the committee.

20.tac. (USC: SC Teacher TEACHER Advisory Committee) *From funds appropriated to South Carolina Teacher TEACHER, an advisory committee shall be appointed to study and recommend policy changes to enhance the teaching of the State's educator workforce. Members shall include the Governor or their designee, the Superintendent of Education or their designee, the Dean of the College of Education at USC or their designee, the Chair of the Senate Education Committee or their designee, the Chair of the House Education and Public Works or their designee, and the Executive Director of the Education Oversight Committee or their designee. South Carolina Teacher TEACHER shall serve as staff to the advisory committee and shall report annually to the Governor and General Assembly.*

SECTION 117 - X900 - GENERAL PROVISIONS

117.90 DELETE (GP: USC Greenville Medical School) States the intent of the General Assembly to not appropriate general funds for the new medical school at USC Greenville during the current fiscal year and limits the amount and type of funds that may be transferred from USC to the new medical school.

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: DELETE proviso. Requested by the University of South Carolina.

117.90. (GP: USC Greenville Medical School) ~~It is the intent of the General Assembly that during the current fiscal year, no general funds shall be appropriated for the new medical school at the University of South Carolina in Greenville. In addition, no state funds may be transferred from state earmarked or restricted funds held by the University of South Carolina to the medical school except for grants, contributions, contractual payments, and tuition and required fees for~~

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~~students attending the new medical school at the University of South Carolina in Greenville that are specifically designated for the medical school at the University of South Carolina in Greenville.~~

- 117.130 DELETE** (GP: Diverse Student Recruitment and Retention) Directs higher education institutions to use a portion of their appropriated or authorized funds to develop enrollment and retention programs to promote diversity in student population, to include African Americans, Hispanics, and other underrepresented minorities. Directs the institutions to report to CHE on the effectiveness of these programs and for CHE to include this information in their annual report. **SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** DELETE proviso.

~~**117.130.** (GP: Diverse Student Recruitment and Retention) Institutions of higher learning shall utilize a portion of the funds appropriated to or authorized for the institution to develop enrollment and retention programs to promote diversity in their student population, to include African Americans, Hispanics and other underrepresented minorities. Institutions are directed to report the effectiveness of these enrollment and retention programs to the Commission on Higher Education for inclusion in their annual report.~~

- 117.140 AMEND** (GP: National Guard College Assistance Program) Allows members of the SC National Guard to qualify for college assistance program grants when taking more than one hundred thirty semester hours or related quarter hours. Allows service members to receive \$22,000 in grants to cover 100% of college tuition and fees. Directs that service members shall be required to meet all other requirements. **SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** AMEND proviso to deletes \$22,000 grant money that can be received and allows members to receive college assistance benefits up to an amount equal to 100% of tuition and fees not to exceed \$12,000 for the year. Directs that the lifetime maximum shall not exceed \$25,000. Allows members to complete the FAFSA to received eligible scholarships and grants. Requested by the Commission on Higher Education.

~~**117.140.** (GP: National Guard College Assistance Program) For the current fiscal year, a member of the SC National Guard may qualify for college assistance program grants for more than one hundred thirty semester hours or related quarter hours. Additionally, service members may receive a total of twenty two thousand dollars in total grants to cover *college assistance program benefits up to an amount equal to* one hundred percent of college tuition and fees *not to exceed twelve thousand dollars* for the academic year. *The lifetime maximum amount received shall not exceed twenty-five thousand dollars. Tuition and fees are defined as the amount charged for registering for credit hours of instruction, costs of textbooks, and other fees and charges associated with attendance at an eligible institution.* Service members shall be required to meet all other requirements. *Service members may complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to receive all eligible federal and state scholarships and grants.*~~