

STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES
Legislative Update
As of August 4, 2014

I. ENACTED

A. MILITARY & VETERANS LEGISLATION

- 1. Veterans' Tuition Assistance: Yellow Ribbon Program" (SB 744, SL 2014-XX, Sec. 11.12).** Requires the Community College System to participate in the federal "Yellow Ribbon Program". The Yellow Ribbon Program provides matching funds for tuition assistance to aid non-resident veterans, their spouses and dependent relatives. Colleges will be able to draw down federal matching funds which will cover 45% of the tuition gap between resident and non-resident tuition. The General Assembly set aside a \$1,000,000 reserve to provide an additional 45%, and the veteran would pay the remaining 10%.
- 2. Credit for Military Training (SB 761, SL 2014-67).** Requires the State Board of Community Colleges and the UNC Board of Governors to develop a plan for implementing a uniform system of granting course credits based on a student's military training or experience. Senate Bill 761 also requires the State Board of Community Colleges and the UNC-BOG, in consultation with other agencies, to:
 - a. Study programs that provide maximum credit for military training or experience that meet NC licensing, certification, or credential standards.
 - b. Identify job development programs requiring the some military occupational skills to complete the program.
 - c. Identify existing VA approved degree and non-degree programs having high employment demand and determine the ability of community colleges to conduct these programs.
 - d. Identify and develop short-term programs that meet the needs of NC high employment CTE fields.

B. OTHER

- 1. Collaboration for Prosperity Zones (HB 1131, SL 2014-18, Secs. 3-4).** Establishes "Prosperity Zones" across the State to facilitate collaborative and coordinated planning and use of resources, improve cooperation with other governmental and nonprofit entities, facilitate administrative efficiencies, receive advice on economic development issues and, to the extent feasible, establish one-stop sources in each region for citizens and businesses. As a part of this legislation,

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the Community College System is required to designate an individual for each of the eight Prosperity Zones to serve as a liaison between the Community College System, local community colleges in the Prosperity Zone, and other educational agencies.

2. **Student Organizations/Rights & Recognition (SB 719, SL 2014-28).** Allows religious or political student organizations on community college campuses to determine that only persons professing the faith or mission of the organization are qualified to serve as leaders and allows these organizations to order their internal affairs and resolve disputes according to the organizations' written doctrines.
3. **Fiscal Integrity/Pension-Spiking Prevention Act (HB 1195, SL 2014-88).** Shifts a portion of the liability for retirement payments from the State retirement system for employees whose average final compensation is \$100,000 or more and whose compensation significantly increased right before retirement.
4. **Escheats Savings Bonds/Trust Fund Scholarships (HB 27, SL 2014-93).** Allows the State Treasurer to claim title and ownership of unclaimed U.S. Savings Bonds and creates the Escheats Savings Bond Trust Fund with the interest and investment on any earnings of the fund to be used solely for scholarships to worthy and needy NC residents enrolled in NC institutions of higher learning.
5. **GED Name-Change (HB 1133, Sec. 28, Ratified).** Replaces the term "General Education Development Degree" with the term "adult high school equivalency diploma."
6. **Colleges' Disposal of Property Clarification (HB 1133, Sec. 51.5, Ratified).** Clarifies that disposal of property means lease, exchange, or demolish.
7. **Regional Schools/CIHS Applications (SB 744, SL 2014-XX, Sec. 8.36).** Provides that Regional Schools are not subject to the 100 students per grade level cap and the requirement for a waiver if the school is not located on a higher education campus. This section also designates the Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and Agriscience as a cooperative innovative high school (CIHS) for 2014-15. To maintain the CIHS designation, the School must apply with a local board of trustees for approval.

C. LOCAL COLLEGES

1. **Legislation Affecting Local Boards of Trustees.**
 - a. **2 County Commissioners/Durham Tech Board of Trustees (HB 1120, SL 2014-73).** Allows two county commissioners to serve on the Durham Tech Board of Trustees.

- b. **Central Carolina Community College Board of Trustees/County Commissioners (HB 1133, Sec. 51, Ratified).** Allows a county commissioner from each appointing board of county commissioners to serve on the board.

2. **Other Legislation.**

- a. **Stanly Community College Capital Project (SB 201, SL 2014-82).** Authorizes Stanly Community College to enter into agreements with Stanly County to jointly erect buildings on property owned by the College. Such agreements do not have to be approved by the State Board of Community Colleges and certain State purchase and contract laws do not apply.
- b. **Bladen & Martin Community Colleges/Investing in Innovation Grants (SB 744, SL 2014-XX, Sec. 8.27).** Revises list of community colleges participating in the NC IRIS (Investing in Rural Innovative Schools) grant to remove Wilkes Community College and add Bladen and Martin Community Colleges.
- c. **Guilford Technical Community College Property Lease (SB 744, SL 2014-XX, Sec. 10.9)** Changes the entity to whom GTCC can lease certain property at less than fair market value from the NC Center for Global Logistics to the GTCC Innovative Resources Corporation.

II. **REPORTS AND STUDIES**

A. **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS ENACTED IN 2014.¹**

| Report Due | Title | Description |
|-------------------|---|---|
| 09/01/14 | Credit for Military Training (SB 761, SL 2014-67) | Interim report of SBCC and UNC-BOG on the development of a plan for implementing a uniform system of granting course credits based on a student's military training or experience. (See I.A.2. above) |
| 12/15/14 | Workforce Programs Utilizing Military Training & Experience (SB 761, SL 2014-67) | Report of SBCC and UNC-BOG on workforce programs that utilize military training and experience (See I.A.2. above) |
| 01/01/15 | Yellow Ribbon Program Participation | Report on plans for participation in the Yellow Ribbon Program. (See I.A.1. above) |

¹ Does not include reporting requirements from previous legislation.

| Report Due | Title | Description |
|------------|---|--|
| | (SB 744, SL 2014-XX, Sec. 11.12) | |
| 01/01/15 | Credit for Military Training (SB 761, SL 2014-67) | Final report of SBCC and UNC-BOG on the development of a plan for implementing a uniform system of granting course credits based on a student's military training or experience. (See I.A.2. above) |
| 01/01/15 | Collaboration for Prosperity Zones (HB 1131, SL 2014-18, Secs. 3.1-4.3(b)). | Community College System Office report on plans and designating liaisons for Prosperity Zones. (See I.B.1. above) |
| 01/15/15 | Revenues, Expenditures, Fees Collected & Assessed by MSC & Textile Tech Center (SB 744, SL 2014-XX, Sec. 10.3) | Report of the revenues and expenditures for the Manufacturing Solutions Center (MSC) at CVCC and the Textile Tech Center at Gaston College including the fee structure and total fees collected by each center. |
| 02/01/15 | Community Colleges & UNC Bilateral Agreements (SB 744, SL 2014-XX, Sec. 10.7) | Requires SBCC and UNC-BOG to study bilateral agreements between community colleges and UNC institutions, specifically those aiding in the transfer process and require students to complete work at a community college prior to transfer. |
| 03/01/15 | Process for Revising Tiers (SB 744, SL 2014-XX, Sec. 10.2) | Requires SBCC to develop a process for periodically reviewing and revising how courses and programs are classified into tiers and identify courses and programs in high-need areas. |
| 04/01/15 | Collaboration for Prosperity Zones (HB 1131, SL 2014-18, Sec. 4.3(b)). | System Office report on activities of liaisons, specifically any activities undertaken that resulted in enhanced collaboration and coordination with other governmental agencies, improved planning on use of educational resources, |

| Report Due | Title | Description |
|------------|-------|---|
| | | and improved administrative efficiencies. (See I.B.1. above) |

B. STUDIES OF INTEREST

- 1. Study University Tuition (SB 744, SL 2014-XX, Sec. 11.5).** In studying increasing tuition at UNC institutions, the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee (Ed Oversight) must also consider encouraging students to enroll first at a community college before completing an undergraduate degree at a UNC institution. Ed Oversight must report any findings to the 2015 General Assembly.
- 2. Vocational Training for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (SB 744, SL 2014-XX, Sec. 10.4).** Requires Ed Oversight to study programs for training and developing vocational expertise and job readiness at community colleges and report any findings to the 2015 General Assembly.
- 3. Financial Aid Payment Schedule to Incentivize 30 Hours/Academic Year & Implement Revised Payment Schedule (SB 744, SL 2014-XX, Sec. 11.8).** Requires State Education Assistance Authority (SEAA) to consult with UNC, the NC Community College System, and NC Independent Colleges and Universities to study ways to encourage completion of 30 hours per academic year. The SEAA must make an interim report by March 1, 2015, and a final report by October 1, 2015. The SEAA must implement its payment schedule for financial aid awards made for the 2016-17 academic year.

III. PENDING AS OF AUGUST 4, 2014.

Adjournment. At the time of printing, the legislature had not officially adjourned *sine die* or agreed on an adjournment resolution, and therefore, remains in session. At this time, neither the House nor Senate have scheduled any vote sessions. Below is a comparison of the House and Senate versions of the adjournment resolution.

| Reconvening Date | Matters That May Be Considered | |
|------------------|---|---|
| | Senate Version <i>SJR 881, 3rd ed.</i> | House Version <i>SJR 881, 4th ed. or HJR 1276</i> |
| 08/14/14 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Vetoed bills Matters in litigation Appointments bills | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Vetoed bills Matters in litigation Appointments bills Coal ash management Environmental & natural resources laws Regulatory & administrative reforms |

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|------------------|--|--|
| | Senate Version <i>SJR 881, 3rd ed.</i> | House Version <i>SJR 881, 4th ed. or HJR 1276</i> |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Health benefits for autism 8. Technical & other changes to revenue laws 9. Confidentiality of unemployment compensation information |
| 11/17/14 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Medicaid funding, structure & operation 2. Matters in litigation 3. Vetoed bills 4. Confirmations for Special Superior Court Judges 5. Coal ash management 6. Appointments bills 7. <i>Sine Die</i> Adjournment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Medicaid funding, structure & operation 2. Matters in litigation 3. Confirmations for Special Superior Court Judges 4. <i>Sine Die</i> Adjournment |

Sale of Malt Beverages. The Senate version of SB 734, The Regulatory Reform Act of 2014, would allow community colleges that offer fermentation sciences programs to sell malt beverages produced during the course. This authorization mirrors the authority that the colleges which offer viticulture programs have to sell wine produced during the courses. SB 734 is currently in conference between the House and Senate. Under the House version of the adjournment resolution, regulatory reform legislation would be eligible for consideration.