

# TICUA Policy Update

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March 26, 2015

## Bills Go Behind Budget in House

Due to a House procedure dealing with fiscal notes on bills, the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) bill will be considered only after the House considers the State 2015-2016 budget. The bill carries with it a fiscal note that shows a loss of revenue for THEC of \$140,400 yet a net savings to TBR and UT of \$467,200. The bill is among the first to be considered after the House moves the budget to the floor. The Senate has already passed SARA and is awaiting the House action.

Many other bills are in the same position. Bills dealing with the lottery and Tennessee Promise have been placed behind the budget in House and Senate. Once the budget is passed in both chambers these bills will be dispensed with rather quickly.

## Bonding Approved by Both House and Senate

Senator Barbara Massey and Representative Harry Brooks are sponsoring a bill which will allow TICUA members to finance out-of-state projects. This expansion of bonding authority passed both Chambers. If signed by Governor Haslam, TICUA members will be able to use public financing bonds to expand brick and mortar operations located outside of Tennessee.

## Firearm Bill Goes to Governor

Senator Mark Green's and Representative Curry Todd's bill (SB1058/HB994) which expands the rights of those who possess a firearm conceal and carry permit was passed both the Senate and House Chambers and is now headed to Governor Haslam's desk. If signed by Haslam, the provision allows employees to take civil action against an employer if they discharge or take adverse employment action against the employee for solely transporting or storing a firearm in their trunk. The burden of proving that adverse action was taken by the employer for this single cause rests with the employee.

The bill expands employee rights with civil protection in labor law. The bill, however, does not prohibit institutional policy against having firearms on campus nor does it trump posting signs prohibiting firearms but it does create a special class of employee related to this issue.

## TICUA Legislative Reception Rescheduled for April

Due to the recent winter storms, TICUA had to cancel the 59<sup>th</sup> TICUA Annual Meeting. In order to maintain the independent higher education influence with the state legislature, the TICUA Legislative Reception has been rescheduled for **5-7 pm (CDT) on April 14, 2015 in the Ballroom of the Hermitage**

**Hotel.** At 6 pm we pause to honor both Senator Dolores Gresham and Representative Harry Brooks for their tireless support of TICUA member colleges and universities.

You may register to attend by clicking [here](#).