

TICUA Policy Update

April 14, 2016

Legislature Moves Toward Adjournment

Both the Senate and the House are seeking to consider the final version of the State's budget later this week. This is the best sign that the 109th General Assembly is moving toward adjournment. It is anticipated that both Chambers may complete their work by early next week.

Higher Ed Bills Reach Governor's Desk

Governor Haslam's FOCUS Act which is designed to decentralize the governance of the TBR Universities passed the Senate last week and was transmitted to the Governor Haslam for his signature on April 7th. The bill passed with an amendment to change appointments to THEC. Under the amendment, the Governor will go from appointing all Commissioners to appointing six. Both Senate and House Speakers will have one appointment a piece as well as one joint appointment. Otherwise, the bill has remained largely intact.

Haslam's other higher education package which changes the way THEC authorizes for-profit and all out-of-state institutions passed the House and was passed on the same day and was transmitted to the Governor for his signature as well.

Firearm Bill Signed By Governor

The firearm bill impacting TICUA membership passed both Chambers was signed by Governor Haslam on April 6th. The permissive bill enables TICUA members to allow Tennessee Conceal and Carry permit holders to carry weapons on campus. Campuses exercising this option will need to have their Board of Trustees approve the policy and then notify local law enforcement of the details of the new policy. The permissive nature of the bill also allows a weapons ban to remain place.