



Tab 7

## 2024 Legislative Session Preview

Coordinating Board for Higher Education  
December 6, 2023

### BACKGROUND

The Second Regular Session of the 102<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly will begin on January 3, 2024. Legislation pre-filing began on December 1, 2023. The Department of Higher Education & Workforce Development's primary foci are promoting its FY 2025 budget priorities and the Board-approved legislative proposals.

### CURRENT STATUS

Board book materials were prepared prior to legislative pre-filing began on December 1. Department staff will provide an update on legislation filed.

- **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion.** During the 2023 legislative session, the House of Representatives added language to the budget banning the spending of state funds on staffing, vendors, consultants, or programs associated with "Diversity, Equity, Inclusion," or "Diversity, Inclusion, Belonging." The language was removed in the Senate and was not added back in Conference Committee. Legislation banning diversity, equity, inclusion on higher education campuses has been filed in multiple states, and legislation on this topic is expected to be filed this session.
- **Fast Track Workforce Incentive Grant.** The Department has been informed of potential legislation to expand the eligibility of the Fast Track Workforce Incentive Grant program.
- **Religious Student Associations on Campus.** During the 2022 and 2023 sessions, bills were filed prohibiting public institutions of higher education from discriminating against a religious student association or denying a religious student association any benefit available to any other student association. Last session, the Senate Fiscal Oversight Committee voted the House bill "Do Pass." Similar legislation is expected this session.
- **State Student Financial Aid Program Modifications.** Each session, legislators introduce bills that would modify state financial aid programs.
- **Concealed Carry on Campus.** Each session, legislators introduce bills that would allow concealed carry on campuses of higher education institutions.
- **Vaccination Requirements at Higher Education Campuses.** In recent sessions, legislators have introduced legislation regarding vaccination requirements at higher education institutions.
- **Workforce Specific Legislation.** Legislation has been filed in previous sessions to address specific workforce area needs and shortages. Legislation or budget recommendations may be introduced again this session to address shortages.

### RECOMMENDATION

This is an information item only.

### NO ATTACHMENTS

Coordinating Board for Higher Education  
Tab 7, 2024 Legislative Session Preview  
December 6, 2023 Page | 1