**2013 Legislative Summary**

**Higher Education Bills**

HB 2490---Expands the duties of the HEPC, CTC, and governing boards in providing services to veterans. Each institution is to designate individuals to provide financial and psychological counseling services on each campus, and to the extent practicable, providing those services in one location. Each institution to have a veterans advocate, preferably a veteran. Coordination required among all institutional departments to ensure that assistance is received from the federal Department of Veterans Affairs in a timely fashion and development of plans to deal with untimely receipt of benefits. (Effective 90 days from passage---July 12, 2013.)

HB 2491---HEPC and Council to jointly propose and implement a rule providing for uniform course completion when a student is called to military duty. The rule shall ensure that such students are afforded a fair and efficient procedure to withdraw, complete course work or secure a leave of absence and that partial or full refunds are made when course work cannot be completed. (Effective 90 days from passage---July 12, 2013.)

HB 2538----Supplemental appropriation. Adds $80,758 to Council unclassified account. Adds $4,247,234 to HEPC unclassified account of which no less than $4 million is to be spent at Glenville State College for capital improvements. (Effective from passage---April 13, 2013.)

HB 2738---Allows the HEPC to pay some of the tuition for W.Va. residents that attend an out-of-state institution for optometry, podiatry and veterinary medicine. Recipients, upon graduation, must practice full-time for a year in W.Va. for each year of financial aid they received or repay with interest. HEPC to promulgate legislative rule regarding program.

Expands recipients of health sciences scholarships from HEPC to physical therapists, doctoral clinical psychologists and licensed clinical social workers.

Places the funds in the Center for Nursing Fund under control of HEPC. Sets three types of nursing scholarships the HEPC is to use the funds for. Has the HEPC staff the Center for Nursing. (Effective 90 days from passage---July 12, 2013.) VETOED BY GOVERNOR.

HB 3104---Authorizes promulgation of HEPC and CTC rules on authorization of degree granting institutions, annual reauthorization, and human resources administration. (Effective from passage---April 9, 2013.)

SB 359---Governor’s Public Education Reform bill. As it relates to higher education:

* Before 2014-2015 school year the SBOE, HEPC and CTC to collaborate on adopting college and career readiness standards for English and math.
* SBOE to require all teacher prep programs to train teachers in how to teach college and career readiness standards.
* For high school students graduating after 2016-2017 state institutions cannot use any factor other than the standards set out in the bill for requiring remedial courses.
* Establishes a loan assistance fund under the HEPC for teachers teaching in a subject area of critical need. Two years of teaching required for each year of loan assistance. Loan goes to the teacher’s educational institution. (Effective 90 days from passage---June 20, 2013.)

SB 438---Consolidates Bridgemont CTC and Kanawha Valley CTC on July 1, 2013. Governor to appoint a new BOG with equal amount of lay members appointed from each abolished BOG. One of the lay members serves 1 year term, four serve 4 year terms and five serve three year terms. All six of the constituent reps from the abolished BOGs serve on the new BOG for the first year. New BOG to choose name of the new institution. BOG to adopt rules of the abolished BOGs. Assets and liabilities of abolished BOGs transferred to new BOG. BOG to appoint one of existing Presidents to new presidency. Administrative planning committee established to advise in the reorganization. CTC Chancellor to call first meeting of new BOG as soon after June 30 as possible. (Effective from passage---April 13, 2013).

SB 444---Allows MU and WVU each, after approval by the HEPC, to invest an additional $30 million with their Foundations. Allows a BOG member filling an unexpired term to serve an additional full two terms. Allows WVNET direct access to institutional data to generate reports. Removes the caps on number of nonclassified employees allowed at HEPC and CTC. Counts as nonclassified for purposes of the cap all nonclassified at institutions with return rights to faculty or classified. (Effective from passage---April 13, 2013).

SB 544----Performance review for HEPC and CTC scheduled for 2015. (Effective 90 days from passage---July 10, 2013).

SB 586---Transfers authority to CTC to license schools of cosmetology, barbers and massage. Board of Barbers and Cosmetology to report any violations by schools to CTC.(Effective from passage---April 13, 2013).

SB 664---Decreases CTC appropriation for Workforce Development by $600,000 and WV Advance Workforce by $900,000. (Effective from passage---April 13, 2013).

SB 1005----(From First Special Session) Gives $500,000 apiece to MU and WVU for Pharmacy Scholarships. Gives WVSU $250,000 as a land grant match. (Effective from passage---April 18, 2013).

**Other Bills of Note**

HB 2361---Extends the priority in employment and job training for certain veterans to National Guard or Reserve members who have completed their military obligation. (Effective 90 days from passage---July 8, 2013).

HB 2469----Presently a PERS retiree may be hired by another PERS covered entity and not have their PERS annuity suspended as long they do not earn more than $15,000 a year. The bill raised that cap to $20,000. (Effective 90 days from passage---July 12, 2013.)

HB 2716----The low bidder on any public improvement projects over $250,000 must submit a list of its subcontractors doing over $25,000 of work within 1 business day of bid openings. (Effective 90 days from passage---July 12, 2013).

HB 2747---Defines an “emergency meeting” under the Open Meetings Act as being only authorized when an unexpected event requires immediate attention because it poses an imminent threat to public health or safety, an imminent threat of damage to public or private property or an imminent material financial loss or other imminent substantial harm to a public agency, its employees or the members of the public which it serves. (Effective July 12, 2013).

HB 2968---State agencies are allowed to store state records on other mediums if that medium is incapable of being erased or altered. The bill allows other storage by electronic means if the medium is stored to maximize its life, at least two copies are preserved and one is stored off-site, and they are periodically examined to determine if duplicates are intact. (Effective July 1, 2013.)

SB 21---Requires health care providers providing direct patient care to wear identification badges. DHHR to propose legislative rule setting out requirements. (Effective date unknown). VETOED BY GOVERNOR.

SB 355---When an employee is discharged they must receive their final pay within 4 business days or the next regular payday---whichever comes first. (Effective 90 days from passage---July 12, 2013).

SB 394---Awards the dependents of certain law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty scholarships of $7,500 a year. Funds come from the retirement funds of the employer. (Effective July 1, 2013).