

WHEREAS, in recognition of the cultural, educational, and economic value of the public colleges and universities of this State, the General Assembly makes significant annual investments in these institutions; and

WHEREAS, the people of South Carolina are supportive of these investments, provided that these institutions demonstrate that this commitment is resulting in tangible benefits for the State; and

WHEREAS, public colleges and universities may best demonstrate their responsible stewardship of these funds through their performance, as measured against objective benchmarks; and

WHEREAS, a new method of allocating funds is required to ensure that public colleges and universities receive financial support from the State based upon the quality and effectiveness of the services they provide to South Carolina's students; and

WHEREAS, if public colleges and universities are to receive state appropriations based upon their performance, then institutions that demonstrate responsible fiscal stewardship and effective management should be granted greater autonomy to conduct their affairs; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly has embraced the aforementioned principles by overwhelmingly passing Joint Resolutions endorsing these priorities in 2012 and 2013.

NOW, THEREFORE, I do hereby establish the Task Force on Accountability and Regulatory Reform for Higher Education ("Task Force") for the following purposes:

- (a) To develop recommendations for a new funding model that will improve accountability for South Carolina's public institutions of higher education
- (b) To propose specific, graduated forms of regulatory relief to which the institutions may gain access, based upon their effectiveness and prudent management

1. The Task Force shall be comprised of the following individuals or their designees, and shall meet at least monthly until the required report is completed:

Chairman of the Commission on Higher Education
President of The Citadel
President of Clemson University
President of the College of Charleston
President of Coastal Carolina University
President of Francis Marion University
President of Lander University
President of the Medical University of South Carolina
President of South Carolina State University
President of the University of South Carolina
President of Winthrop University
Chairman of the House Education and Public Works Committee
Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee
Chairman of the Senate Education Committee
Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee

- (a) The Governor shall appoint an additional at-large member.
- (b) The Chairman of the Commission on Higher Education shall serve as the Chairman of the Task Force.
- (c) The Commission on Higher Education shall provide staff support and other resources as necessary to carry out the directives of this Executive Order.

2. The Task Force is encouraged to structure its recommendations within the following framework:

- (a) Organization of the public colleges and universities of this State and the selection of peer institutions and benchmarks, based upon the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education;
- (b) Evaluation criteria organized into four categories:
 - (1) degree completion;
 - (2) affordability and access;
 - (3) educational quality;
 - (4) economic development and institutional mission;
- (c) A five-year transition to a new funding model, which may preserve certain elements of current or former processes, in a streamlined and improved form;
- (d) Use of existing data sources and reporting mechanisms to the greatest practical extent;
- (e) A financial and regulatory incentive structure that promotes the objectives defined herein by rewarding institutions for achieving their missions.

3. No later than December 1, 2013, the Task Force shall submit a report to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives which:

- (a) Suggests any appropriate revisions to the critical success factors and performance indicators established by Section 59-103-30;
- (b) Identifies specific indicators associated with each of the categories identified above, which would be appropriate for incorporation into a new funding model; for each indicator, the Task Force must identify prospective public or nonprofit sources of data that could be used to support the annual evaluation process;
- (c) Proposes degrees and measures of autonomy to be granted to institutions upon attainment of specific goals or thresholds.