

REGULATORY RELIEF PRINCIPLES – AREAS OF CONSENSUS

On November 9, 2011, the Commission on Higher Education (CHE) and South Carolina's public colleges and universities released a report with recommendations on regulatory relief. The Governor's Office is broadly supportive of the concepts expressed in pages 20-22:

- Institutions earn higher degrees of autonomy by demonstrating sound management in personnel, finance, procurement, and related areas
- Three tiers of relief are attainable in each management area; institutions may earn Level II relief in some areas but not others, but Level III relief requires success in all fields
- Institutions will not be precluded from progressing to Level III on the basis of their size or composition

ITEMS FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION

The Governor's Office asks CHE and the institutional presidents to consider the following additions/revisions to what was proposed in the November 9th report:

- Procurement relief available at each tier should be specifically identified in the regulatory relief legislation, instead of negotiated with MMO after the fact
- Regulatory relief in the technology and construction fields should be granted on the basis of objective criteria, as opposed to the certifications of individual state officials
- Level I relief should not be automatic
- At Level III, the state should no longer appropriate FTEs; institutions should manage complement independently

The Governor's Office continues to review the "Financial Incentives" proposed for Level I.

ADDITIONAL PROPOSAL

With the cooperation of the institutions and other state agencies, CHE should compile an inventory of all state-mandated reporting requirements. This report would help us achieve our mutual goal of reducing institutions' compliance burdens by eliminating conflicting, redundant, or other excessive reporting requirements.