



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### WEEK 3: MARCH 21-23, 2023

*This weekly update and bill tracking is provided to keep you updated on bills and actions taken by lawmakers this week. The reporting or tracking of a bill is not intended to imply support or opposition to any bill.*

#### 2023 POLICY PRIORITIES:

Support Medicaid expansion to provide health coverage for the 340,000 working Alabamians currently uninsured.

Support increased funding for mental health services for Alabama Department of Human Resources (DHR), Alabama Department of Mental Health (ADHM) and Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) that would increase access to services through their respective programs.

Support the request of the Department of Human Resources (DHR) of \$49M to fund the Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) that works with licensed childcare providers to improve the quality of care.

Support the request of the Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education (DECE) to increase funding of the First Class Pre-K Program to add approximately 100 classrooms.

\*For more information, visit our website or click on the link below!

#### ADVOCACY TIP OF THE WEEK:

##### What is a Special Session?

Special sessions may be called by the Governor. They are limited to 12 legislative days within 30 calendar days. It takes a 2/3 vote by each house to bring up legislation other than the subject called for by the Governor.

#### HELLO FELLOW CHILD ADVOCATES!

What an incredible first week of regular Session this has been. We are excited to be back, and we cannot wait to get you updated on all things legislative.

#### WHAT HAPPENED DURING WEEK 3?

Each week, VOICES for Alabama's Children (VFAC) will be leading the charge and following legislation/issues that impact children so we can report out to you. Below are just a few from Week 3.

#### BILLS ON THE MOVE

##### HB3 – Rep. Rolanda Hollis (D – District 58)

House Bill 3 prohibits smoking or vaping in a motor vehicle when a child is present. The bill received a favorable report from the House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee on 3/22/23.

##### HB103 – Rep. Alan Baker (R – District 66)

House Bill 103 authorizes the use of up to eight weeks of sick leave for attending to an ill adopted child or for a child whom a petition for adoption has been filed. The bill received a favorable report from the Children and Senior Advocacy Committee on 3/22/23.

##### SB52 – Sen. Arthur Orr (R – District 3)

Senate Bill 52 amends the Alabama Safe at Schools Act to allow certain school personnel to be trained to administer injectable medication to a student with an adrenal insufficiency. The bill was passed by the Senate on 3/23/23 and is now on its way to the House of Representatives for review.

##### SB56 – Sen. Arthur Orr (R – District 3)

Senate Bill 56 requires local boards of education to provide for the use and maintenance of video cameras in public K-12 classrooms in which at least half of the regularly attending students receive special education services. The bill was passed by the Senate on 3/23/23 and is now on its way to the House of Representatives for review.

##### SB66 – Sen. Tim Melson (R – District 1)

Senate Bill 66 prohibits the sale, distribution, marketing, or possession of psychoactive cannabinoids derived from or found in hemp to any individual under 21 years of age and levies a five percent tax on the gross proceeds of the sale of products containing psychoactive cannabinoids. The bill received a favorable report from the Healthcare Committee on 3/22/23.

#### Governors Budgets

The Governor's budgets for General Fund and Education Trust Fund came out this week, along with a bill for supplemental funding for both budgets. The budgets will begin in the Senate this year.

These are just some of the hundreds of bills introduced that pertain to children. [Click here to see the full list.](#)

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

**March 21:** Regular Session resumes

**March 28:** Session dismissed for Spring Break

**April 4:** Session resumes

**April 11:** Child Advocacy Day

**OUR MISSION AND VISION:**

**Mission:** To speak for the well-being of Alabama's children through research, public awareness, and advocacy.

**Vision:** All Alabama's children are safe, healthy, educated, and economically secure so that they, their families, and our state can thrive.

2023 POLICY PRIORITIES

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Legislature will be on Spring Break the week of March 27 – 31, 2023. There will not be a Weekly Legislative Update next week.

**CHILD ADVOCACY DAY 2023**

Have you registered for our Ninth Annual Child Advocacy Day? We sure hope so!

Join us on April 11th as we highlight reports from both Legislative and state agency leadership, and allow members, advocates and partners the chance to hear from decision makers on policy, budgetary and legislative priorities currently facing our children. This event will be offered both in-person and virtually. Designated parking within two blocks of the Statehouse will be available for attendees.

Seating is limited. There will be no day-of tickets available at the door, so please make arrangements to use this platform to reserve your ticket now. Four ticket options will be available for attendees. If are a speaker at this event, a member of the Alabama Legislature, or you have renewed your VOICES membership for 2023, your ticket is complementary! If you do not find yourself in at least one of these categories, there will be a \$10 entry fee to partially cover the cost of our meal.

**REGISTER HERE!**

FOR ACCESS TO ALL INFORMATION ON THE 2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION, **PLEASE VISIT THE ALISON WEBSITE.**

That's all for Week 3.

Yours in Advocacy,  
**VOICES for Alabama's Children**



**VOICES for Alabama's Children**

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