



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### WEEK 4: APRIL 4-6, 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.*

#### **CHILD ADVOCACY DAY 2023**

While our in-person event is sold out, we would love for you to join us **virtually** on April 11th! Have you registered? We sure hope so; [CLICK HERE TO REGISTER NOW!](#)

We will allow members, advocates and partners the chance to hear from Rep. Danny Garrett, Sen. Arthur Orr, and Sen. Greg Albritton on policy, budgetary and legislative priorities currently facing our children.

#### **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

#### **HELLO FELLOW CHILD ADVOCATES!**

Another exciting week for child well-being. We have seen and participated in so many incredible events, meetings, and conversations throughout this year's Week of the Young Child. Let's get you updated on all things legislative.

#### **WHAT HAPPENED DURING WEEK 4?**

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 4.

#### **BILLS ON THE MOVE**

##### **HB43 – Rep. Pebblin W. Warren (D – District 82)**

House Bill 43 – “The First Grade Readiness Bill” – allows a child turning five years of age between September 1 and December 1 to attend public kindergarten and a child turning six years of age between September 1 and December 31 be admitted to the first grade provided they have completed kindergarten or displays readiness for the first grade. This bill further requires children who have not participated in kindergarten pass a first grade readiness assessment. Any child who does not pass would be placed in kindergarten rather than first grade. In Alabama, all children must be enrolled in school by age 6. The substitute bill received a favorable report from the Education Policy Committee on 4/5/23.

##### **HB116 – Rep. Danny Garrett (R – District 44)**

House Bill 116 eliminates the 2% tax rate on the first \$500 of taxable income for single persons, heads of families, and married persons filing separate returns. This bill also eliminates the 2% tax rates on the first \$1,000 of taxable income for married persons filing a joint return. The fiscal note on this bill is \$17.9M per year. The bill was passed by the House of Representatives on 4/6/23 and has been referred to the Senate's Finance and Taxation Education Committee.

##### **HB164 – Rep. Andy Whitt (R – District 6)**

House Bill 164 requires public school students to complete and pass a test on a personal financial literacy and money management course before graduation from high school. The bill received a favorable report from the Education Policy Committee on 4/5/23.

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:

##### Know Your Lawmaker!

Do you know who your lawmaker is? What are they interested in? What committees do they serve on? Do your research, then set up a meeting. You can tailor your conversation or pitch based on what you learn!

#### IMPORTANT DATES:

**April 4-6:** Week of the Young Child

**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

#### HB187 – Rep. Chip Brown (R – District 105)

House Bill 187 requires consent of a parent or legal guardian for a minor to receive a vaccination. The bill received a favorable report from the Health Committee on 4/5/23.

#### SB66 – Sen. Tim Melson (R – District 1) / HB219 – Rep. Russell Bedsole (R – District 49)

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. This bill also levies a 5% tax on the gross proceeds of the sale of products containing psychoactive cannabinoids. The bill was passed by the Senate on 4/4/23 and has been referred to the House of Representatives' Ways and Means General Fund Committee.

#### SB119 – Sen. Linda Coleman-Madison (D – District 20)

Senate Bill 119 requires a person 16 years of age or older to be tried as an adult for any felony offense involving the use of a dangerous instrument against an employee of a juvenile detention center or the Department of Youth Services. The bill received a favorable report from the Judiciary Committee on 4/5/23.

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

FOR ACCESS TO ALL INFORMATION ON THE 2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION, [PLEASE VISIT THE ALISON WEBSITE.](#)

#### CHILD ADVOCACY DAY 2023

Don't forget to register for our 9th Annual Child Advocacy Day! Our in-person option has sold out, but we would love to host you virtually. [Click here to sign up!](#)

That's all for Week 4.

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



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