



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### WEEK 5: APRIL 11-13, 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.*

#### ADVOCACY TIP OF THE WEEK:

##### Keep it Simple...

When writing or talking with a lawmaker, it is important to keep it simple and use plain language. Lawmakers have to look and try to understand hundreds of bills and they can't be an expert on every issue. That's your job to be the expert and answer their questions.

#### 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

#### HELLO FELLOW CHILD ADVOCATES!

Another exciting week for child well-being. Let's get you updated on all things legislative.

#### WHAT HAPPENED DURING WEEK 5?

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 5.

#### CHILD ADVOCACY DAY 2023

Our Ninth Annual Child Advocacy Day was held on April 11, 2023. We are so grateful for each of you who took time out of your busy schedules to join us in-person and virtually! A special thank you to our featured speakers and their dedication to protecting the well-being of Alabama's children. Be on the lookout for our post-event wrap-up soon!

#### BILLS ON THE MOVE

##### SB180 – Rep. Rodger M. Smitherman (D – District 18)

Senate Bill 180 requires social studies and history instruction to be fact-based, historically accurate, and inclusive. The bill received a favorable report from the Education Policy Committee on 4/12/23.

##### HB109 – Rep. Terri Collins (R – District 8)

House Bill 109 establishes the Alabama Credential Quality and Transparency Act and the Alabama Workforce Council Committee on Credential Quality and Transparency. This bill also establishes the Alabama Terminal on Linking and Analyzing Statistics (ATLAS) on Career Pathways Act and would establish the Alabama College and Career Readiness Act. The bill received a favorable report from the Education Policy Committee on 4/12/23.

##### HB45 – Rep. Jeremy Gray (D – District 83)

House Bill 45 – Creates the Tyrell Spencer Act which addresses training of coaches and educating of student athletes in health and safety guidelines to inform about the signs and symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest. The coaches training would be provided by Alabama High School Athletic Assn. and Alabama Independent School Assn. and coordinate with existing training in CPR and AEDs and is required every two years. Requires students who show symptoms to be pulled from participating until cleared by a medical professional. The bill received a favorable report from the Children and Senior Advocacy Committee on 4/12/23.

##### HB 219 – Rep. Russell Bedsole (R – District 49)

House Bill 219 prohibits the sale, distribution, marketing, or possession of psychoactive cannabinoids derived from or found in

website or click on the link below!

#### 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

hemp to any individual under 21 years of age. This bill 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 Health Committee on 4/12/23.

#### **HB186 – Rep. Chip Brown (R – District 105)**

House Bill 186 allows a parent to opt his or her child out of any school policy requiring students to wear a face covering at school, at a school function, on a school bus, or at a school bus stop. The bill received a favorable report from the Health Committee on 4/12/23.

#### **HB123 – Rep. Barbara Drummond (D – District 103)**

House Bill 123 provides a criminal penalty for a parent or legal guardian that does not reasonably secure their firearm which results in their minor unlawfully possessing the firearm on the premises of a public school. This bill also makes nonsubstantive, technical revisions to update the existing code language to current style. The bill received a favorable report from the Judiciary Committee on 4/12/23.

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.](#)

That's all for Week 5.

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



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