



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

WEEK 6: APRIL 18-20, 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!

OUR MISSION AND VISION:

Mission: To speak for the well-being of Alabama's children through research, public

HELLO FELLOW CHILD ADVOCATES!

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

WHAT HAPPENED DURING WEEK 6?

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 6.

BILLS ON THE MOVE

SB143 - Sen. Will Barfoot (R - District 25)

Senate Bill 143 identifies gang members and enhances penalties for any criminal activity that benefits, promotes, or furthers the interest of a gang. The bill establishes mandatory consecutive penalties for any individual who knowingly possesses, uses, or carries a firearm during the commission of any act intended to benefit, promote or further the interest of a gang. The bill also requires any juvenile 16 years of age or older to be tried as an adult for any gang related criminal activity. This bill received a favorable report from the Judiciary Committee on 4/19/23.

HB90 - Rep. John W. Rogers (D - District 52)

House Bill 90 provides that certain students with an intellectual disability are entitled to public school instruction and special services up to the student's twenty-sixth birthday. This bill was carried over by the Ways and Means Education Committee on 4/19/23.

HB306 - Rep. Paul W. Lee (R - District 86)

House Bill 306 provides for the regulation of licensed dentists performing teledentistry orthodontia services in the state by the Board of Dental Examiners. The bill requires advertisements relating to teledentistry to contain certain disclaimers, for patients to have in-person visits with a dentist before starting and annually during teledentistry treatments, and for the board to adopt rules relating to teledentistry. This bill was carried over by the Health Committee on 4/19/23.

SB96 - Sen. Sam Givhan (R - District 7)

Senate Bill 96 amends the Alabama Medical Liability Act of 1996 to provide that the term "health care provider" as used in that act and the Alabama Medical Liability Act of 1987 would include emergency medical services personnel and any emergency medical provider service. This bill received a favorable report from the House of Representatives' Health Committee on 4/19/23.

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 received a favorable report from the House of Representatives'

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

Education Policy Committee on 4/19/23.

HB126 – Rep. Rex Reynolds (R – District 21)

House Bill 126 makes appropriations for the ordinary expenses of the executive, legislative, and judicial agencies of the State, for other functions of government, for debt service, and for capital outlay for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024. The bill was passed as amended by the House of Representatives on 4/25/23 and has been referred to the Senate's Finance and Taxation Education Committee.

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 6.

Yours in Advocacy,
VOICES for Alabama's Children



VOICES for Alabama's Children

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