



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### WEEK 7: APRIL 25-27, 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:

##### Know where the public stands...

Know where the public (especially voters) stand on the issue. Focus groups or public opinion polling will guide your arguments for change and keep you from wasting time and other resources!

#### 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!

#### HELLO FELLOW CHILD ADVOCATES!

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

#### WHAT HAPPENED DURING WEEK 7?

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 7.

#### BILLS ON THE MOVE

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

House Bill 164 requires public school students to complete a course on personal financial literacy and money management before graduation from high school. The bill received a favorable report from the Senate's Education Policy Committee on 4/26/23.

##### 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 child for whom a petition for adoption has been filed and for attending to an adopted child. The bill received a favorable report from the Senate's Finance and Taxation Education Committee on 4/26/23.

##### 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. 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 Senate's Health Committee on 4/26/23.

##### HB333 – Rep. Danny Garrett (R – District 44)

House Bill 333 establishes the Alabama Modified School Calendar Grant Program to allow local boards of education to adopt a modified school calendar and to offset the associated costs with grant funds. This bill creates the Alabama Modified School Calendar Grant Fund and the Alabama Modified School Calendar Administration Fund as special funds within the State Treasury, and provides for the administration of the program by the State Department of Education. The bill received a favorable report from the Education Policy Committee on 4/26/23.

##### HB319 – Rep. Barbara Drummond (D – District 103)

House Bill 319 creates the Tobacco Licensing and Compliance Fund in the State Treasury; the fund will distribute all fines, fees, and other funds collected in the administration and enforcement of the tobacco retail laws to the fund and provide for its administration. This bill requires a one-time application fee and an annual permit fee for the

**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**

distribution of tobacco, tobacco products, electronic nicotine delivery systems, or alternative nicotine products, and increases the penalty that may be assessed for a violation of the tobacco retail laws. This bill increases the fine for a minor under 21 years of age who is in possession of one of these products, and requires the minor's driver license to be suspended on a third or subsequent conviction. The bill was introduced to the House and referred to the Judiciary Committee, where a public hearing was held on 4/26/23. The bill was carried over to be voted on at next week's meeting.

**HB124 – Rep. Rex Reynolds (R – District 21)**

House Bill 124 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 and referred to the Senate's Finance and Taxation General Fund Committee on 4/25/23.

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 7.

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



**VOICES for Alabama's Children**

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