



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### WEEK 8: MAY 2-3, 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:

##### Where to Find Contact Info...

Find your legislative representatives' contact information by visiting <http://www.legislature.state.al.us> and entering your ZIP Code in the lower left hand corner.

#### 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 8?

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 8.

#### BILLS ON THE MOVE

##### HB334 – Rep. Danny Garrett (R – District 44)

House Bill 334 creates the Students with Unique Needs (SUN) Education Scholarship Account Act and Program. This bill allows parents to use funds deposited in education scholarship accounts of eligible students, to provide an individualized education program for their children. The bill received a favorable report from the House of Representatives' Ways and Means Education Committee on 5/3/23.

##### SB87 – Sen. Arthur Orr (R – District 3)

Senate Bill 87 – Education Trust Fund Supplemental Appropriations – makes supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2023, from the Education Trust Fund to various agencies and entities a total amount of \$2,787,667,309. The bill was passed as amended by the Senate on 5/4/23 and is on its way to the House of Representatives.

##### SB88 – Sen. Arthur Orr (R – District 3)

Senate Bill 88 – FY 2024 Education Trust Fund Budget (Governor's Recommendations) – makes appropriations for the support, maintenance and development of public education in Alabama, for debt service, and for capital outlay for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024. The bill was passed as amended by the Senate on 5/4/23 and is on its way to the House of Representatives.

##### SB267 – Sen. Donnie Chesteen (R – District 29)

Senate Bill 267 creates the Athletic Trainer Secondary School Incentive Program; to provide grants to local boards of education that meet certain requirements related to the use of athletic trainers in rural, 1A, 2A, 3A, and Title I secondary schools; to authorize the Alabama Board of Athletic Trainers to adopt rules to administer the incentive program and the grant application process; to require grants issued from the incentive program to be provided as stipends to qualifying athletic trainers; and to limit each secondary school and athletic trainer to one grant per school year. The bill was passed as amended by the Senate on 5/4/23 and is on its way to the House of Representatives.

##### HB363 – Rep. Terri Collins (R – District 8)

**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**

House Bill 363 changes the appointment process for the Alabama Public Charter School Commission, authorizes the commission to hire staff, and requires commissioners to receive annual training. This bill provides additional guidelines for the authorizing and application review process, provides further for the operational and categorical funding of the public charter schools in their first year of operation, and clarifies that conversion public charter schools receive the full per pupil federal, state, and local revenue intended to support the conversion public charter school and its educational responsibilities to students. The bill received a favorable report from the House of Representatives' Education Policy Committee on 5/3/23.

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 8.

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



**VOICES for Alabama's Children**

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