



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### WEEK 9: MAY 9-11, 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:

##### When Talking to a Lawmaker...

- Be knowledgeable
- Never mislead
- Know your opposition
- Be forceful, but not aggressive
- Know what makes them tick
- Don't alienate
- Tell a personal story if applicable
- Always thank them for their time

#### 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 9?

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 9.

#### BILLS ON THE MOVE

##### SB223 – Sen. Vivian Davis Figures (D – District 33)

Senate Bill 223 includes a child witness in the definition of a "physical offense, sexual offense, or violent offense" for the purpose of the Child Physical and Sexual Abuse Victim Protection Act. The bill received a favorable report from the Senate's Judiciary Committee on 5/1/23.

##### SB224 – Sen. Vivian Davis Figures (D – District 33)

Senate Bill 224 clarifies that for the purpose of the crime (transmitting obscene material to a child by computer is a Class B felony), a child is a person who is under 16 years of age. This bill clarifies that a criminal proceeding for a violation of distributing a private image could be brought in any county in which any part of the crime took place, in the county of residence of the victim, or any county where the image was received. This bill provides that a violation of incest when the victim is under 16 years of age is a Class A felony and removes the requirement of corroborated testimony. The bill received a favorable report by the Senate's Judiciary Committee on 5/10/23.

##### SB202 – Sen. Larry Stutts (R – District 6)

Senate Bill 202 creates the Parental Rights in Children's Education (PRICE) Act for K-12 Education and secures the fundamental constitutional rights of parents to direct the education of their children according to their religious faith, beliefs, values, and morals. This bill creates and provides for the PRICE Program, establishes a three-year phase-in period, and arranges roles and responsibilities for the Parent Advisory Board, the Commissioner of Revenue, and the State Department of Revenue. This bill would provide for the funding of the PRICE ESA Fund and the PRICE Administration Fund for the costs of administering the PRICE Program; the implementation and administration of the PRICE Program and the use of education savings accounts; and would specify the qualified expenses that may be paid from an education savings account. This bill would retain the autonomy of nonpublic schools and prevent additional state control over or interference with nonpublic schools, their students, and

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

families. The bill received a favorable report by the Senate's Finance and Taxation Education Committee on 5/10/23.

#### **SB181 – Sen. Rodger Smitherman (D – District 18)**

Senate Bill 181 provides a uniform statewide system of procedural due process protections relating to the suspension and expulsion of public school students for violating the student code of conduct or state law. This bill provides for the adoption of any necessary rules to implement this act by the State Board of Education. The bill received a favorable report from the Senate's Education Policy Committee on 5/10/23.

#### **HB30 – Rep. Artis McCampbell (D – District 71)**

House Bill 30 changes the designation of a failing school to a lowest sixth percent school and the designation of a nonfailing school to a highest 94th percent school for the purposes of school grading and the Alabama Accountability Act of 2013, and would require the State Board of Education to reflect those changes in terminology when amending or adopting rules. The bill received a favorable report from the Senate's Education Policy Committee on 5/10/23.

#### **HB428 – Rep. Jerry Starnes (R – District 88)**

House Bill 428 expands the definition of child abuse to include certain physical contact of a child five years of age or under and certain physical contact of children with certain mental or developmental disabilities who are 17 years of age or younger, provided the contact was committed with the intent to cause physical injury. The bill received a favorable report from the House of Representatives' Judiciary Committee on 5/10/23.

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 9.

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



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