

## BILLS OF INTEREST

These are just some of the many bills VOICES is monitoring throughout the 2025 regular legislative session. These bills are related to our 2025 Policy Agenda items, which [can be found here](#). For a full list of bills we are tracking, [click here](#).

### Safety

#### **HB94 – Rep. Juandalynn Givan**

Under existing law, human trafficking in the second degree is a Class B felony. This bill would provide that knowingly advertising, either online or in print, access to the sexual or labor servitude of another is human trafficking in the second degree. This bill would also make nonsubstantive, technical revisions to update the existing code language to current style. HB94 passed the House on February 25 and is pending action by the Senate Judiciary Committee.

### Justice-Involved Youth Safety

- **HB33 – Rep. Reed Ingram**

This bill would require the Department of Youth Services to start a pilot program in certain counties for children who commit nonviolent offenses. The program would involve detaining the child in a juvenile facility and having them complete an intervention class. Both the child and a parent or guardian must attend the class, and the child must pass a written test. There will be penalties for not completing the class or test. If a law enforcement officer interacts with a child suspected of committing a nonviolent offense, they must contact a juvenile probation officer and report the incident. The bill also mandates annual reports to the Governor and Legislature, including data on how many juveniles who complete the class reoffend. The program is set to end on October 1, 2030.

#### **VOICES opposes this bill for the following reasons:**

- Our most recent juvenile justice data in the [2024 Alabama Kids Count Data Book](#) (supplied by the Alabama Administrative Office of Courts), shows that since the Alabama Juvenile Justice Act (JJA) was implemented in 2009, Juvenile Incarceration for **non-violent offenders** dropped by 61.4%. This data speaks to what is working. The JJA encourages community-based approaches for addressing juvenile non-violent crime. Non-violent offenses are often status offenses - something that is against the law solely because of a person's age - not going to school, smoking underage, drinking underage.
- Locking children up for **non-violent offenses** is expensive and does not work. Leaving them in their community to be mentored and guided by caring adults who know them and want to invest in their well-being! Locking **non-violent offenders** behind bars costs taxpayers on average \$500 (or more) per child per day compared to community-based programs that cost a fraction of that at approximately \$75 per child per day.
- Long term, locking children up increases the chances that they will reoffend. [One study](#) reported that 10 years of data on incarceration and crime trends show that states with an increase in the number of youth in juvenile facilities did not necessarily experience a decrease in crime during the same time period. Locking children up [also harms](#) their educational attainment, lifetime wages and health outcomes.

It was scheduled to be in the House Ways & Means Committee on Wednesday (February 19), and a public hearing was requested. The bill was removed from the committee's agenda just before the beginning of the meeting and hasn't been added back as of February 27.

- **[HB133](#) – Rep. Reed Ingram**  
Under existing law, a judge or a juvenile intake officer may impose restrictions on an allegedly delinquent child released from custody. This bill would authorize the Board of Pardons and Paroles or any other state agency to provide electronic monitoring of an allegedly “delinquent child” who is released in certain circumstances.
- **[HB222](#) and [SB134](#) – Rep. Jim Hill and Sen. Sam Givhan**  
These companion bills would authorize the Board of Pardons and Paroles to share electronic monitoring GPS data with local law enforcement agencies under certain circumstances.

### Firearm Safety

- **[HB12](#) – Rep. Juandalynn Givan**  
This bill would prohibit an individual from possessing a bump stock in this state and would provide a criminal penalty for violating this prohibition.
- **[HB13](#) – Rep. Juandalynn Givan**  
This bill would prohibit the sale, transfer, or possession of an assault weapon to any person under 18 years of age.
- **[HB23](#) – Rep. Kenyatté Hassell**  
This bill would require a person to have a permit to legally purchase, acquire, or carry an assault weapon in a vehicle or on his or her person. and would require a person to have a permit to purchase or otherwise acquire an assault weapon. It would provide exceptions for certain entities and circumstances from these requirements and provide a criminal penalty for a violation.
- **[HB26](#) – Rep. Phillip Ensler**  
Under existing law, persons are prohibited from possessing certain firearms. This bill would prohibit persons from possessing a pistol with a part or combination of parts designed or intended to covert a pistol into a machine gun installed on or attached to the pistol. This bill would also provide criminal penalties for violations.
- **[HB51](#) – Rep. Juandalynn Givan**  
This bill would prohibit an individual from possessing a bump stock in a Class I municipality. This bill would also provide a criminal penalty for violating this prohibition.
- **[HB58](#) – Rep. Chris England**  
Under existing law, when asked by a law enforcement officer, a person has a duty to inform the officer whether he or she is in possession of a concealed pistol or firearm. There is no penalty associated with a violation of this law. This bill would provide a criminal penalty for a violation.
- **[HB69](#) – Rep. Juandalynn Givan**  
This bill would create criminal penalties in a Class I municipality for people who possess firearms they cannot have under federal law. It would also penalize the possession of stolen firearms or ammunition. Additionally, it would impose penalties for having certain prohibited items, including short-barrel shotguns, short-barrel rifles, firearm silencers, machine guns, or parts that make a semi-automatic firearm operate like a machine gun.

- **[HB73](#) – Rep. Patrick Sellers**  
This bill would only apply to Jefferson County and would prohibit the possession of a trigger activator. It would also establish civil penalties for a violation. The House passed HB76 on February 25, and is awaiting action by the Jefferson County Legislation Committee in the Senate.
- **[HB150](#) – Rep. Phillip Ensler**  
This bill would provide a criminal penalty for a person who transfers a deadly weapon or ammunition to an individual that they know or reasonably should know is intoxicated. It is currently awaiting action by the House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee.
- **[HB206](#) – Rep. Mary Moore**  
This bill would prohibit the sale, transfer, and possession of an assault weapon subject to certain exceptions. It would require a person who possesses an assault weapon to take specified actions and would provide criminal penalties for violations. It is currently awaiting action by the House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee.
- **[SB30](#) – Rep. Rodger Smitherman**  
This bill would require individuals in possession of a firearm to secure the firearm in a manner that a reasonable individual would know that an unauthorized individual is not likely to gain access to the firearm. It would also provide a criminal penalty for securing a firearm in violation of this requirement. It is currently awaiting action by the Senate Judiciary Committee.
- **[SB31](#) – Rep. Rodger Smitherman**  
This bill would prohibit a person from knowingly possessing a machine gun, including the frame or receiver of any such weapon, any part intended to convert a firearm into a machine gun, and parts from which a machine gun may be assembled. This bill would provide a criminal penalty for violating this prohibition. It is currently awaiting action by the Senate Judiciary Committee.
- **[SB40](#) – Sen. Keith Kelley**  
This bill allows federal firearm licensees or local law enforcement officers to temporarily hold a firearm for a legal owner, with an agreement in place. It also provides legal protection for those who enter into such agreements. The Senate passed SB40 on February 20, and it is pending action by the House Judiciary Committee.
- **[SB170](#) – Sen. Merika Coleman**  
This bill creates the Gun Violence Protective Order Act, allowing courts to issue *ex parte* or one-year protective orders if someone is found to be an immediate danger to themselves or others. The orders require the person to surrender any firearms and ammunition they own or control to local law enforcement. The bill also allows for the renewal or early end of a one-year order under certain conditions and sets criminal penalties for violations. It is currently awaiting action by the Senate Judiciary Committee.

#### Cell Phones &/or Social Media

- **[HB35](#) – Rep. David Faulkner**  
This bill would require social media platforms to use a commercially reasonable age verification process and would also provide that a knowing or reckless violation of this act by a social media platform is a deceptive trade practice and would provide for civil penalties. It is currently pending committee action in the House.

- **[HB65](#) – Rep. Patrick Sellers**  
This bill would require the State Board of Education to adopt a model policy restricting the use of cell phones and other electronic communication devices in public K-12 schools during the school day, with some exceptions. It would also require each local board of education to adopt a policy relating to the use of electronic communication devices based on that model policy. It is currently pending committee action in the House.
- **[HB81](#) – Rep. Pebblin W. Warren**  
This bill would require the State Board of Education to adopt a model policy restricting the possession and use of cell phones and other electronic communication devices in public K-12 classrooms, with some exceptions. It would require the state board's model policy to include a discipline scale that levies a fine against students who continually possess or use a cell phone in violation of the model policy. It would also require each local board of education to adopt a policy relating to the use and storage of electronic communication devices based on that model policy. It is currently pending committee action in the House.
- **[HB166](#) and [SB92](#) – Rep. Leigh Hulsey and Sen. Donnie Chesteen**  
These companion bills prohibit students from using or having wireless devices, like phones, on public elementary and secondary school grounds during school hours, with some exceptions set by local school boards. They would require each school board to implement an internet safety policy for school-owned devices and mandate that students learn about social media safety before entering eighth grade. The bills also repeal Section 16-1-27 of the Code of Alabama 1975. Both have received favorable reports from their committees in their chamber of origin.
- **[HB276](#) – Rep. Ben Robbins**  
This bill mandates social media platforms to notify when users under 18 are active in certain situations, prevent specific actions on minor accounts, respond promptly to the Attorney General, and implement an effective age verification process. It also requires the State Department of Education to develop guidelines and a resource bank related to the mental and physical health impacts of social media use by minors. It is currently pending committee action in the House.

### **Electronic Cigarettes/Vaping**

- **[HB8](#) and [SB2](#) – Rep. Barbara Drummond and Sen. Garlan Gudger**  
These companion bills update the definition of "electronic nicotine delivery system" to include battery-powered devices for inhaling non-tobacco substances. It bans selling tobacco products, e-liquids, and similar items through vending machines and requires a one-time application fee and an annual permit fee for distribution. They would increase penalties for violations and specify how these penalties will be applied. They would also require tobacco retailers to post health warning signs and give the ABC Board authority to create rules for enforcing tobacco laws. They would also direct the State Board of Education to develop a model policy for vaping awareness and prevention programs in K-12 schools, requiring local school boards to implement similar policies.

### **Health/Healthcare-Related**

- **[SB85](#) – Sen. Arthur Orr**  
Under existing law, a student at a public K-12 school may be exempt from vaccination or testing requirements for religious or medical reasons. This bill would expand this exemption to students at a public institution of higher education. It would also allow students to be exempt for medical or religious reasons if a public college or university requires vaccinations or testing.

VOICES opposes this bill for the potential unintended consequences of the growing number of diseases that once were nearly eradicated and the inability, due to the lack of necessary information, of state health officials to respond adequately in the event of outbreaks throughout the state.

- **[SB87](#) – Sen. Arthur Orr**

Existing law authorizes the State Board of Midwifery to administer the practice of midwifery. This bill would authorize the board to accept gifts and grants. It would also authorize licensed midwives to provide midwifery care in freestanding birth centers and to administer certain newborn screening tests.

#### **Healthcare Coverage-Related**

- **[HBI77](#) – Rep. Ben Robbins**

The bill requires custodial parents to enroll their Medicaid-covered child in available employer health insurance. Courts can also mandate noncustodial parents who owe child support to provide insurance. If a parent fails to enroll the child, the Medicaid agency can sue to recover costs and get information from employers about the child's coverage. Currently, VOICES opposes the bill due to concerns that it may financially burden parents and caregivers trying to regain independence while unable to afford health insurance costs. We are watching for amendments that may address affordability for low-income, working families.