

SREB

Child Care and Early Learning

Presented by:

Senator Beth Mizell — Louisiana

Senator Jay Chaudhuri — North Carolina

Legislative Advisory Council



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Beth Mizell
State Senator
Louisiana



Vice Chair
Jay Chaudhuri
State Senator
North Carolina

Report from the Fall Meeting of the Legislative Advisory Council

Child care is framed as:

A foundation for children to succeed at school and in life

A workforce participation issue

An economic development strategy

Core policy focus areas:

Access

Affordability

Quality

Workforce development

Report, continued

Shared Policy Tools

Public–private partnerships

Local-state partnerships

Quality rating and improvement systems (VA and GA)

Employer engagement (NC and VA)

Strong economic and ROI framing (LA and NC)

Integrated birth-grade 8 data system (VA)

Coordinated governance (VA and GA)

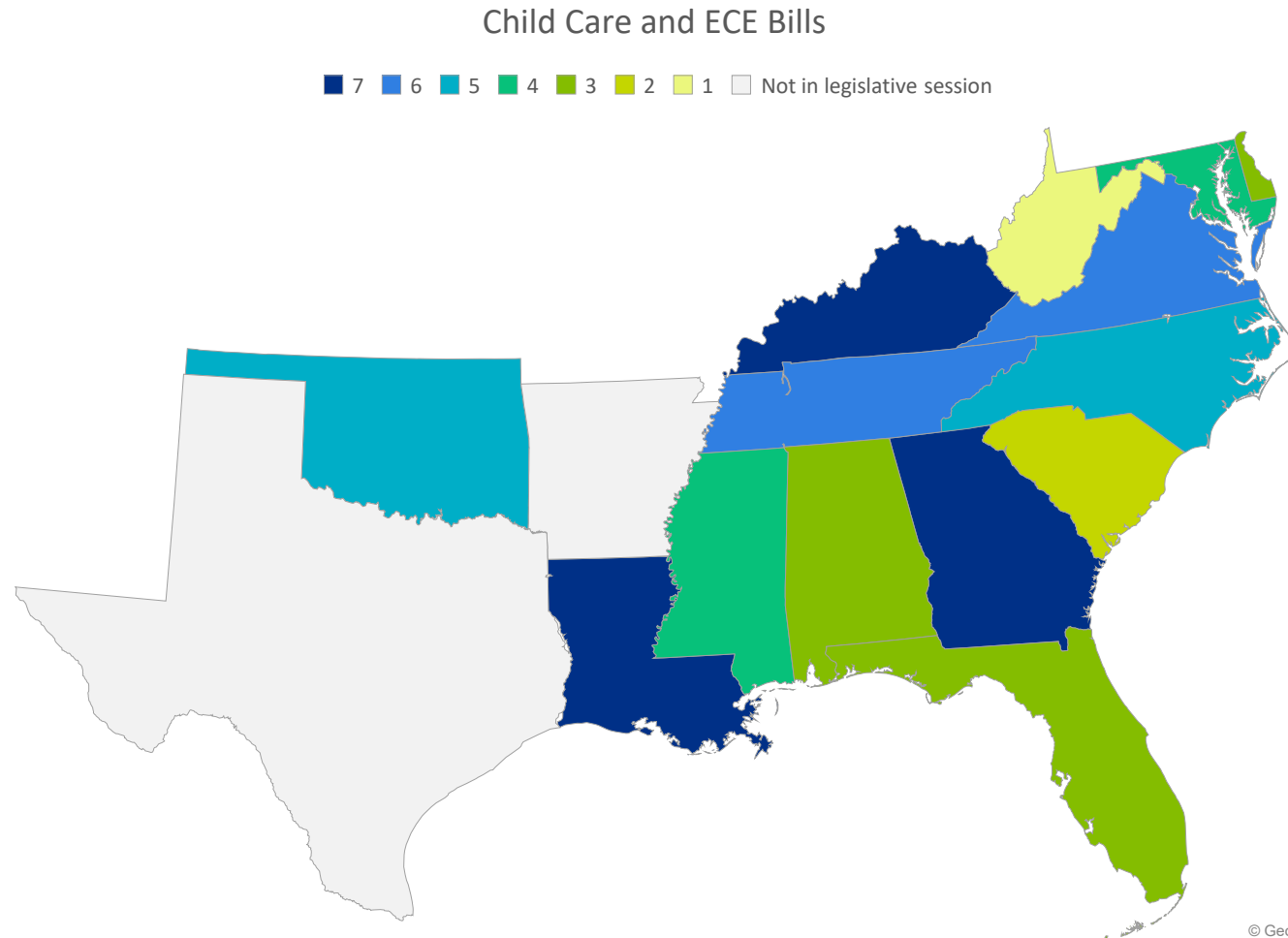
State Priorities Mentioned

Did Your State Act? What Did that Look Like?

- ECE workforce quality
- Child care system analysis
- Five-star program/best practices
- Child care quality improvement
- Child care for student parents
- Cross-system and interagency child care data sharing
- Centralized ECE governance
- Child care funding
- ECE system alignment
- Child care costs and ROI

Tracked 2026 Child Care and ECE Legislation in SREB Region

State	Number of Tracked Bills
GA	7
KY	7
LA	7
TN	6
VA	6
NC	5
OK	5
MD	4
MS	4
AL	3
DE	3
FL	3
SC	2
WV	1
AR and TX	Not in regular legislative session



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North Carolina Legislative Action

Senate Bill 1051

Ensures that licensed family child care home operators are not blocked by HOA governing documents, landlord restrictions, or local zoning rules from operating in residential settings.

Senate Bill 1052

Formally defines license-exempt family, friend, and neighbor (FFN) child care providers under North Carolina law.

Senate Bill 1053

Reforms the current Class I felony penalty for first-time child care licensing violations, reclassifying them as Class A1 misdemeanors while preserving felony exposure for willful, repeat offenses and serious violations.

Senate Bill 1054

Directs the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to expand access to the federal Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) for legally operating FFN child care providers.

Louisiana Legislative Action

House Bill 992

Requires assignment of early childhood education identification numbers to children in certain early childhood education programs.

House Bill 1146

Consolidates Louisiana's early childhood governance by repealing the Advisory Council on Early Childhood Care and Education and transferring its responsibilities to the Early Childhood Care and Education Commission, creating a single state entity to oversee ECE policy, planning, and oversight.

Senate Bill 135

Provisions relating to the dedication of revenue from sports wagering.

Senate Bill 441

Modifies approval, licensing, and safety requirements for Louisiana prekindergarten programs, modifies approval processes for nonpublic prekindergarten programs and establishes child safety and welfare standards, establishes required child to staff ratio for all school prekindergarten programs. Also changes certain prekindergarten programs exemptions from licensing requirements.

Childcare and Early Learning Panelists



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SREB

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