

Child Care and Early Childhood Education in 2026

Legislative Trends Across SREB States



14

SREB states



68

bills tracked

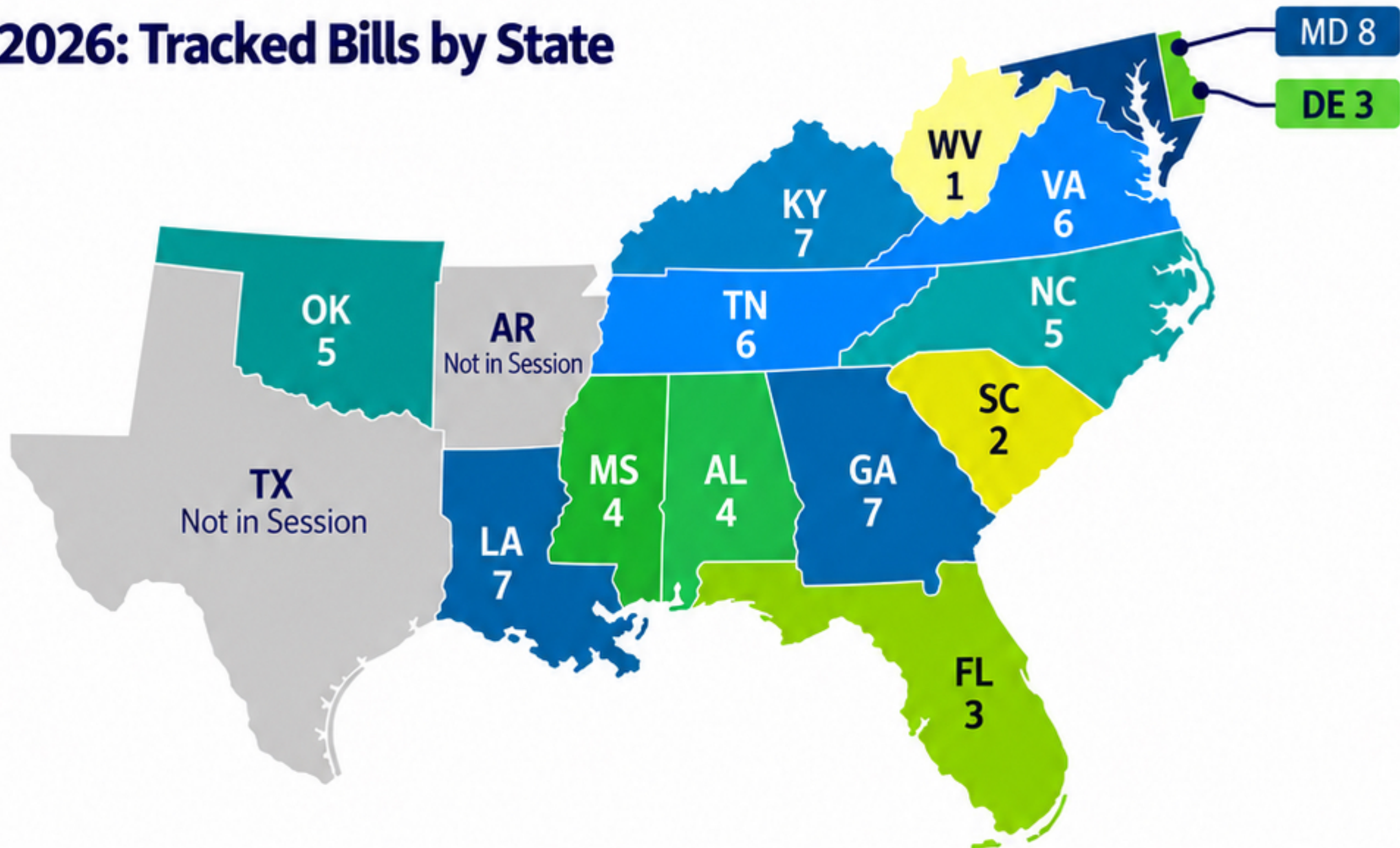


24

bills enacted

In 2026, SREB tracked 68 child care and early childhood education bills across 14 states. Of those, 24 bills were enacted, reflecting continued state-level efforts to strengthen early learning systems, improve funding, expand access, support the child care workforce, and improve program quality and accountability.

2026: Tracked Bills by State



Focus Areas in Enacted Bills



Funding & Financing

6 bills



Governance, Regulation & Standards

6 bills



Access, Expansion & Support

5 bills



Accountability, Data & Reporting

3 bills



Other

4 bills