



2023

# Alabama State Legislative Scorecard

See how Members of Alabama's State Legislature are voting on economic growth issues.



Club for Growth Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization focused on educating the public about the value of free markets, pro-growth policies, and economic prosperity.

State Scorecards are created by the Club for Growth Foundation to educate the public about the voting records of the legislators who serve in state legislatures. This is part of a larger scorecard project that the Club for Growth Foundation has created to educate the public about the economic positions taken by legislators in states across the country.

# Our Mission

THE FOUNDATION EDUCATES THE PUBLIC ABOUT PRO-GROWTH POLICIES.

THE FOUNDATION CONDUCTS COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATIONS OF VOTING RECORDS.

THE FOUNDATION'S GOAL IS TO INFORM THE PUBLIC AND BRING AWARENESS TO LAWMAKERS.

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# Methodology | Alabama 2023

Club for Growth Foundation publishes the scorecard study so the public can monitor the actions and the voting behavior of Alabama’s elected state lawmakers on economic growth issues.

The Foundation conducted a comprehensive examination of each lawmaker’s record on votes related to pro-growth policies and computed an Economic Growth Score on a scale of 0 to 100. A score of 100 indicates the highest support for pro-growth policies.

**The Foundation examines legislative votes related to the Club’s immediate pro-economic growth policy goals, including:**

- Reducing or eliminating tax rates and enacting tax reform
- Limiting government through limited spending and budget reform
- Regulatory reform and deregulation
- Ending abusive lawsuits through medical malpractice and tort reform
- Expanding school choice
- Implementing Term Limits

Not all of these policy goals will come up for a vote in each legislative session.

The Foundation also examines votes on bills that would directly harm these goals.

This scorecard is based on selected votes of importance to the Foundation and does not include the complete voting record of any legislator. There are inherent limitations in judging the overall qualifications of any legislator based on a selected voting record, and the Foundation does not endorse or oppose any legislator for public office.

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## 2023 LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED IN ALABAMA

The Foundation’s study examined over 1,500 floor votes and, in the end, included 19 Alabama House votes and 17 Alabama Senate votes.

### COMPUTATION

Scores are computed on a scale of 0 to 100. Each vote or action in the rating is assigned a certain number of points depending on its relative importance. If a lawmaker casts a correct vote, the scorecard will denote it with that number. If a lawmaker casts an incorrect vote, the scorecard will denote that vote with a hyphen (-). Absences are not counted – signified as an “X” on the scorecard – though the Foundation reserves the right to do so if, in its judgment, a lawmaker’s position was otherwise discernible. If a lawmaker was not officially sworn into office at the time of a vote, the scorecard will denote that vote with an “I”.

To provide some additional guidance concerning the scores, each lawmaker was ranked. Aside from ties, lawmakers with 0% scores are, by default, ranked #105 in the House and #35 in the

Senate if all lawmakers are present. Scores and ranks cannot be directly compared between the House and Senate, as different votes were taken in each chamber. If applicable, the study also records a “Lifetime Score” for each lawmaker. This is a simple average of the scores from 2023 and all previous years where the lawmaker earned a score.

In some cases, a lawmaker was not present for enough votes for a meaningful score or ranking to be computed. In such cases “n.a.” for “not applicable” appears. In computing lifetime scores, years with “n.a.” listed instead of a score are not included. Comparing such scores to other members without “n.a.” years may be misleading.

### ADDITIONAL FACTORS

A study of roll call votes on the floor of the Alabama House and Alabama Senate and legislative actions is just that. It cannot account for a lawmaker’s work in committee, advocacy in his party’s caucus meetings, and effectiveness as a leader in advocating pro-growth policies.

“Through the release of this series, the Club for Growth Foundation is looking at how state legislatures perform in terms of pro-growth policies. We believe that this scorecard will help inform citizens and entrepreneurs about who supports the policies that are good for economic prosperity.”

**- DAVID McINTOSH**  
PRESIDENT,  
CLUB FOR GROWTH FOUNDATION

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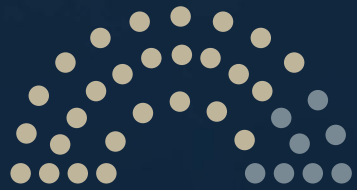
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# Alabama Senate Snapshot



27 Republicans

8 Democrats

0 Vacancies

**Average Republican Score: 27%**

(Down from 39% in 2022)

**Average Democrat Score: 16%**

(Down from 34% in 2022)



**HIGHEST-RATED REPUBLICAN**

Senator Sam Givhan (SD-7) | **55%**



**LOWEST-RATED REPUBLICAN**

Senator Greg Albritton (SD-22) | **15%**



**HIGHEST-RATED DEMOCRAT**

Senator Kirk Hatcher (SD-26) | **27%**



**LOWEST-RATED DEMOCRAT**

Senator Merika Coleman-Evans (SD-19) | **7%**

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Name	District	Party	Score	Life-score	HB1	HB124	HB125	HB126	HB133	HB175	HB217	HB241	HB479	SB60	SB87	SB88	SB197	SB261	SB263	SB278	SB330	Rank
<b>PRO-GROWTH POSITION</b>					N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	
<b>POINTS</b>					8	9	8	10	4	4	2	4	8	6	7	8	2	4	3	8	5	
Albritton, Greg	SD-22	R	15%	24%	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	X	-	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	31
Allen, Gerald	SD-21	R	22%	23%	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	17
Barfoot, Will	SD-25	R	28%	32%	-	-	8	-	-	X	2	-	X	-	-	-	X	4	3	X	5	8
Beasley, William	SD-28	D	17%	20%	X	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	5	28
Bell, Lance	SD-11	R	34%	34%	-	-	8	-	-	4	2	-	8	-	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	4
Butler, Tom	SD-02	R	22%	26%	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	17
Carnley, Joshua	SD-31	R	22%	22%	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	17
Chambliss, Clyde	SD-30	R	39%	26%	-	9	8	-	-	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	3
Chesteen, Donnie	SD-29	R	18%	24%	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	-	4	3	-	X	27
Coleman-Evans, Merika	SD-19	D	7%	14%	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	35
Coleman-Madison, Linda	SD-20	D	16%	16%	-	-	-	-	X	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	29
Elliott, Chris	SD-32	R	23%	26%	-	-	-	-	X	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	14
Figures, Vivian	SD-33	D	16%	17%	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	8	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	29
Givhan, Sam	SD-07	R	55%	34%	8	X	8	-	-	4	2	4	8	-	-	-	-	4	3	X	5	1
Gudger, Garlan	SD-04	R	29%	24%	-	-	-	X	-	4	2	-	8	-	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	7
Hatcher, Kirk	SD-26	D	27%	18%	-	9	8	-	X	X	2	-	X	X	-	-	X	-	-	-	X	10
Hovey, Jay	SD-27	R	23%	23%	-	-	-	-	-	X	2	-	8	-	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	14
Jones, Andrew	SD-10	R	23%	26%	-	-	-	-	-	X	2	-	8	-	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	14
Kelley, Keith	SD-12	R	22%	22%	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	17
Livingston, Steve	SD-08	R	22%	26%	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	17
Melson, Tim	SD-01	R	28%	28%	X	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	8	-	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	8

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<b>PRO-GROWTH POSITION</b>					N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	
<b>POINTS</b>					8	9	8	10	4	4	2	4	8	6	7	8	2	4	3	8	5	
Orr, Arthur	SD-03	R	34%	30%	8	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	8	-	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	4
Price, Randy	SD-13	R	22%	25%	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	17
Reed, Greg	SD-05	R	22%	26%	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	X	4	3	-	5	17
Roberts, Dan	SD-15	R	26%	29%	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	8	-	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	11
Scofield, Clay	SD-09	R	22%	23%	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	17
Sessions, David	SD-35	R	24%	27%	-	X	-	-	-	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	12
Shelnett, Shay	SD-17	R	24%	33%	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	8	-	-	-	-	4	X	-	5	12
Singleton, Bobby	SD-24	D	15%	18%	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	5	31
Smitherman, Rodger	SD-18	D	15%	17%	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	31
Stewart, Robert	SD-23	D	15%	15%	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	31
Stutts, Larry	SD-06	R	34%	27%	-	-	8	-	-	4	2	-	8	-	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	4
Waggoner, J. T.	SD-16	R	22%	23%	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	17
Weaver, April	SD-14	R	42%	31%	8	-	8	-	-	4	2	-	8	-	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	2
Williams, Jack	SD-34	R	22%	23%	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	17

# Alabama 2023 | Senate Vote Descriptions

## HB 1

### SUPPLEMENTAL COVID SPENDING SPLURGE (CFGF OPPOSES)

This bill appropriates over \$1 billion in remaining federal COVID funds for pet projects. Specifically, the legislation appropriates \$660 million for various infrastructure projects including costly broadband boondoggles, \$340 million in handouts to government-run healthcare programs, and \$55 million in corporate welfare handouts and subsidy programs for well-connected industries. The \$2 trillion price tag on ARPA is one of the primary drivers of the record inflation eating into household budgets and family finances. Earmarking federal money wrongly seen as “free” for myriad big government projects creates a false spending floor for future legislative sessions, building pressure for future spending and tax hikes. The Alabama House passed the bill, 102-3, on March 14, 2023. The Alabama Senate passed it, 30-3, on March 16, 2023.

## HB 124

### GENERAL FUND BUDGET BINGE (CFGF OPPOSES)

This bill allocates over \$2.9 billion in spending for the State General Fund. This is a 7.4 percent increase from last year’s budget and yet again is the largest general fund budget in Alabama history. The legislation includes a 2 percent across-the-board pay raise for state government employees, an 8.7 percent increase in Medicaid spending, and an eye-popping 47 percent increase for the Department of Public Health. The bill does succeed in paying off the rainy day fund debt, but in an environment marked by persistent inflation and high costs due to profligate spending, this bill further ramps up the mounting spending burden on hardworking Alabama taxpayers. The Alabama House passed the bill, 105-0, on April 25, 2023. The Alabama Senate passed it, 31-2, on May 25, 2023.

## HB 125

### SUPPLEMENTAL SPENDING BONANZA (CFGF OPPOSES)

This bill allocates another \$190 million in spending for last year’s General Fund. Specifically, the legislation appropriates new funding for the FY2023 general fund budget bringing total spending for last year’s budget to nearly \$3 billion. The bill dumps \$50 million into the general budget reserve fund, \$6 million for elevator upgrades in the state Capitol complex, \$2 million for upgrades to the governor’s mansion, and \$3 million for tourism use in the 2022 World Games which already occurred. Instead of backfilling the current fiscal year with another 7 percent spending increase, lawmakers should instead focus on setting the future baseline to reduce the spending burden on hardworking Alabamans. The Alabama House passed the bill, 105-0, on April 25, 2023. The Alabama Senate passed it, 28-7, on May 25, 2023.

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## HB 126

### NEW MEDICAID SLUSH FUND

**(CFGF OPPOSES)**

This bill creates a new Medicaid emergency slush fund. Specifically, the legislation authorizes a new \$100 million Medicaid emergency fund to offset future “budget shortfalls” and gives the governor and state Medicaid commissioner sole discretion to approve expenditures from the new emergency fund. Additionally, the bill appropriates \$88 million to go into the fund for FY2024. The Medicaid welfare program is rife with fraud and poor health outcomes. Lawmakers should focus on moving Alabamans off Medicaid and constraining spending instead of creating new slush funds to keep massive welfare programs afloat if the state spends more money than it takes in. The Alabama House passed the bill, 101-0, on April 25, 2023. The Alabama Senate passed it, 34-0, on May 25, 2023.

## HB 133

### CRONY INCOME TAX CREDIT

**(CFGF OPPOSES)**

This bill authorizes a new income tax exemption for medical students and certain preceptors. Specifically, the legislation creates a new tax carveout for optometrists, dentists, advanced nurses, and other medical professionals who practice in designated rural or underserved areas equal to \$425 or \$500 per rotation and an annual maximum of either \$5,100 or \$6,000. The program is capped at \$780,000 per year. This crony credit rewards hand-selected professionals with substantial taxpayer-funded rewards so long as they practice medicine in government-specified areas of the state. The Alabama House passed the bill, 104-0, on April 25, 2023. The Alabama Senate passed it, 31-0, on June 1, 2023.

## HB 175

### POORLY DESIGNED GROCERY TAX REBATE

**(CFGF OPPOSES)**

This bill authorizes a one-time grocery tax rebate. Specifically, the legislation provides a one-time refundable tax credit to taxpayers equal to \$150 for individuals and \$300 for married couples filing jointly at a total estimated cost of \$390 million for FY2023. While providing relief from rising grocery prices is important, a better approach is to waive, reduce, or even eliminate existing consumption taxes instead of sending out what is effectively a stimulus check. The Alabama House passed the bill, 101-0, on May 25, 2023. The Alabama Senate passed it, 25-5, on June 1, 2023.

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### HB 217

#### MINOR OVERTIME INCOME TAX EXEMPTION

##### (CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill exempts a portion of overtime pay from being taxed. Specifically, the legislation exempts the first \$2,000 in overtime pay from working more than 40 hours per week from being considered as gross income. The bill locks the exemption in place through 2026 and is estimated to save taxpayers at least \$60 million over the next three years. Measures that allow hardworking Alabamans to keep more of their money are key drivers of economic growth and opportunity. The Alabama House passed the bill, 105-0, on May 2, 2023. The Alabama Senate passed it, 34-0, on June 1, 2023.

### HB 241

#### CRONY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EXPANSION

##### (CFGF OPPOSES)

This bill extends the corporate welfare programs in the Alabama Jobs Act through 2028 and renews the annualized caps on taxpayer-backed subsidies, which is set at \$375 million for 2024 and

ratchets up to \$475 million in 2028. Additionally, the bill adds costly Green New Deal initiatives as qualifying projects eligible to receive taxpayer funds and institutes new taxpayer-subsidized slush fund for tourism businesses equal to \$1 million per year or \$5 million per company. The slush fund is capped at \$10 million per year. Lawmakers should not engage in such flagrant cronyism that rewards well-connected interests at the expense of hardworking Alabaman families. The Alabama House passed the bill, 105-0, on April 13, 2023. The Alabama Senate passed it, 29-6, on April 20, 2023.

### HB 479

#### SIGNIFICANT GROCERY TAX PHASEDOWN (CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill implements a multiyear reduction in the state grocery tax. Specifically, the legislation reduces the existing 4 percent sales and use tax on groceries to 3 percent beginning on September 1, 2023. The rate is further reduced down to 2 percent by September 1, 2025, assuming net receipts to the Education Trust Fund in FY2026 increase 2 percent over the previous year. Additionally, the bill preempts local

governments from imposing additional grocery taxes and caps local grocery sales tax rates at the statewide rate. Estimates suggest the cut would save taxpayers \$470 million over the next two years. Reducing tax rates is the cleanest and most effective way to provide needed relief for hardworking Alabamans. The Alabama House passed the bill, 103-0, on May 25, 2023. The Alabama Senate passed it, 31-0, on June 1, 2023.

### SB 60

#### PERMANENT NURSING LOAN PROGRAM EXPANSION

##### (CFGF OPPOSES)

This bill enacts numerous changes to the Alabama Board of Nursing. Specifically, the legislation effectively mandates that the Board provide loans to individuals in nursing school or applicants seeking various advanced nursing degrees by removing the Board's discretion on whether or not to award loans. Furthermore, the bill authorizes an annual increase in the loan limit per individual above the existing \$15,000 threshold. This loan limit increase is capped at 5 percent each year on an indefinite basis and includes a new repayment penalty for those

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who default. Regardless, lawmakers should not empower unelected bureaucrats with the ability to permanently increase the amount of taxpayer-subsidized loans doled out for the benefit of hand-selected professions. The Alabama Senate passed it, 32-0, on April 25, 2023. The Alabama House did not take it up.

### SB 87

#### EXTRAVAGANT SUPPLEMENTAL SPENDING PACKAGE

**(CFGF OPPOSES)**

This bill appropriates \$2.78 billion for numerous programs for FY 2023. Specifically, the legislation appropriates \$550 million for income tax rebates, \$60 million in one-time COVID-related spending to the Alabama retirement system, \$108 million in one-time spending to the Department of Commerce for green energy vehicles and projects, \$893 million in one-time capital improvements for every higher education institution in the state, and \$480 million to the Department of Education in one-time expenses to “offset” inflationary increases for capital improvement projects. Lawmakers should operate within the confines of the budget process instead of passing new

supplemental spending packages for the current fiscal year equal to 25 percent of the upcoming Education Trust Fund that drastically increases spending baselines. The Alabama House passed the bill, 101-1, on May 25, 2023. The Alabama Senate passed it, 35-0, on May 4, 2023.

### SB 88

#### EDUCATION TRUST FUND BUDGET BINGE

**(CFGF OPPOSES)**

This bill allocates nearly \$8.8 billion in spending to the Education Trust Fund. This is once again the largest education fund budget in Alabama’s history after the previous year’s highest at \$8.2 billion. This is a \$537 million increase--roughly 6.5 percent--over 2022 education spending. The legislation includes nearly \$106 million in new spending for colleges and universities and a 2 percent across-the-board pay raise for teachers with fewer than nine years of employment. In an environment marked by persistent inflation and high costs due to profligate spending, this bill foists yet another undue burden on hardworking Alabama taxpayers. The Alabama House passed the bill, 102-0, on May 25, 2023. The Alabama Senate passed it, 35-0, on May 4, 2023.

### SB 197

#### FRAUDULENT ANTI-FRAUD PROTECTION

**(CFGF OPPOSES)**

This bill purports to enact anti-fraud measures for state agencies to implement before handing out benefits. Specifically, the legislation requires agencies to consult with the Department of Public Examiners of Public Accounts to determine if some systems or services could assist the agencies in mitigating fraud. However, the bill explicitly carves out crony tax credit programs, corporate tax rebates, and taxpayer-funded grant programs that benefit well-connected industries from receiving similar scrutiny. In a bid to allegedly fight fraud, the legislature excluded programs that benefit government-preferred entities. The Alabama House passed the bill, 102-0, on June 1, 2023. The Alabama Senate passed it, 31-0, on May 3, 2023.

### SB 261

#### PROHIBITION ON ESG CONTRACTING

**(CFGF SUPPORTS)**

This bill prohibits state agencies from entering into contracts with certain entities that prioritize woke Environmental, Social, Governance (ESG)

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edicts over the pecuniary interests of clients, consumers, and taxpayers. Specifically, the legislation prohibits Alabama state agencies from contracting with entities that engage in boycotts or discrimination against certain industries, including the reliable energy sector, at the expense of investors and taxpayers. The Alabama House passed the bill, 74-27, on May 31, 2023. The Alabama Senate passed it, 27-8, on May 18, 2023.

### SB 263

#### MODEST SCHOOL CHOICE ELIGIBILITY ENHANCEMENT

##### (CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill expands an existing education scholarship program for low-income K-12 students. Specifically, the legislation modifies the Alabama Accountability Act to expand eligibility for students who attend the worst failing schools to receive a scholarship to attend a different K-12 school by increasing the qualifying income threshold from 185 percent of the federal poverty level to 250 percent. Additionally, the bill nearly triples the number of schools that would qualify under the program

and raises the annual scholarship cap from \$30 million to \$40 million in FY2025. The Alabama House passed the bill, 75-22, on May 31, 2023. The Alabama Senate passed it, 26-7, on May 24, 2023.

### SB 278

#### HIGHER EDUCATION BAILOUT FUND

##### (CFGF OPPOSES)

This bill implements a reckless bailout fund for colleges and universities in Alabama, specifically Birmingham Southern College. Specifically, the legislation creates the Distressed Institutions of Higher Education Loan Program Fund to serve as a taxpayer-funded bailout enterprise for universities and colleges that have been established for more than 50 years facing financial difficulties that could lead to the institution shutting down. The bill empowers the Treasurer to set the loan terms and conditions, including the interest rate, and provides minimal oversight authority within the legislature. Taxpayers, particularly those who never attended college, should not be asked to subsidize front-end tuition for failing institutions and then fund the subsequent bailouts when

they do fail. The Alabama House passed the bill, 66-27, on May 25, 2023. The Alabama Senate passed it, 33-0, on May 4, 2023.

### SB 330

#### CENTRAL BANK DIGITAL CURRENCY PROHIBITION

##### (CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill prohibits the use of a prospective central bank digital currency (CBDC) by government agencies in Alabama. Specifically, the legislation prohibits a digital currency issued by the Federal Reserve or other related entity from being an acceptable currency for state agencies in the state of Alabama. Additionally, the bill prohibits the state government from participating in any federal testing of a CBDC effort. This is an important protection for families, workers, and consumers as a central digital currency would, in effect, give the federal government control over every citizen's bank account in a massive reorganization of the relationship between citizens and government. The Alabama House passed the bill, 103-0, on June 6, 2023. The Alabama Senate passed it, 32-0, on May 24, 2023.

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105 MEMBERS

# Alabama House Snapshot



77 Republicans

28 Democrats

0 Vacancies

Average Republican Score: 29%

(Down from 46% in 2022)

Average Democrat Score: 20%

(Down from 44% in 2022)



### HIGHEST-RATED REPUBLICAN

Rep. Benjamin Harrison (HD-2) | 43%



### LOWEST-RATED REPUBLICAN

Rep. James Lomax (HD-20) | 23%



### HIGHEST-RATED DEMOCRAT

Rep. Laura Hall (HD-19) | 26%



### LOWEST-RATED DEMOCRAT

Rep. Mary Moore (HD-59) | 18%

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# Alabama 2023 | House Scorecard

Name	District	Party	Score	Life-score	HB1	HB115	HB124	HB125	HB126	HB133	HB175	HB217	HB241	HB334	HB429	HB479	SB87	SB88	SB197	SB261	SB263	SB278	SB330	Rank
<b>PRO-GROWTH POSITION</b>					N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	
<b>POINTS</b>					8	2	9	8	10	4	4	2	4	2	2	8	7	8	2	4	3	8	5	
Almond, Cynthia	HD-063	R	30%	37%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	-	3	8	5	28
Baker, Alan	HD-066	R	26%	25%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	36
Bedsole, Russell	HD-049	R	34%	36%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	8	5	6
Blackshear, Chris	HD-080	R	28%	24%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	X	5	29
Bolton, Ronald	HD-061	R	28%	28%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	X	5	29
Boyd, Barbara	HD-032	D	20%	19%	-	2	-	-	-	-	X	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	86
Bracy, Napoleon	HD-098	D	19%	21%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	89
Brown, Chip	HD-105	R	26%	28%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	36
Butler, Mack	HD-028	R	26%	26%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	36
Carns, Jim	HD-048	R	26%	35%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	36
Chestnut, Prince	HD-067	D	21%	19%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	-	X	X	5	83
Clarke, Adline	HD-097	D	19%	22%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	89
Clouse, Steve	HD-093	R	26%	25%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	36
Cole, David	HD-010	R	26%	26%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	36
Collins, Terri	HD-008	R	26%	25%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	36
Colvin, Brock	HD-026	R	34%	34%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	8	5	6
Crawford, Danny	HD-005	R	34%	26%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	8	5	6
Daniels, Anthony	HD-053	D	20%	22%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	-	X	-	5	86
Drummond, Barbara	HD-103	D	22%	21%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	-	3	-	5	79
DuBose, Susan	HD-045	R	26%	26%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	36
Easterbrook, Brett	HD-065	R	n/a	27%	-	2	-	-	-	-	X	2	-	2	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	

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# Alabama 2023 | House Scorecard (Continued)

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<b>PRO-GROWTH POSITION</b>					N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y		
<b>POINTS</b>					8	2	9	8	10	4	4	2	4	2	2	8	7	8	2	4	3	8	5		
Ellis, Corley	HD-041	R	26%	25%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	36	
England, Christopher	HD-070	D	19%	17%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	89
Ensler, Phillip	HD-074	D	19%	19%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	89
Estes, Tracy	HD-017	R	38%	30%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	7	-	-	4	-	8	5	3	
Faulkner, David	HD-046	R	27%	26%	-	2	-	-	-	-	X	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	35	
Fidler, Jennifer	HD-094	R	26%	26%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	36	
Fincher, Bob	HD-037	R	34%	34%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	8	5	6	
Forte, Berry	HD-084	D	24%	25%	-	2	-	-	X	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	-	3	-	5	74	
Garrett, Danny	HD-044	R	26%	29%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	36	
Gidley, Mark	HD-029	R	26%	26%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	36	
Givan, Juandalynn	HD-060	D	19%	22%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	89	
Givens, Donna	HD-064	R	26%	26%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	36	
Gray, Jeremy	HD-083	D	19%	19%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	89	
Hall, Laura	HD-019	D	26%	27%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	X	8	-	-	-	-	-	8	5	36	
Hammett, Matthew	HD-092	R	32%	32%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	8	5	25	
Harbison, Corey	HD-012	R	26%	32%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	36	
Harrison, Benjamin	HD-002	R	43%	43%	8	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	X	8	-	-	-	4	3	8	5	1	
Hassell, Kenyatte	HD-078	D	19%	33%	-	2	-	-	X	-	-	2	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	89	
Hill, Jim	HD-050	R	28%	24%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	X	5	29	
Holk-Jones, Frances	HD-095	R	26%	26%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	36	
Hollis, Rolanda	HD-058	D	19%	23%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	89	

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<b>PRO-GROWTH POSITION</b>					N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	
<b>POINTS</b>					8	2	9	8	10	4	4	2	4	2	2	8	7	8	2	4	3	8	5	
Hulsey, Leigh	HD-015	R	26%	26%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	36
Hurst, Stephen	HD-035	R	24%	26%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	X	-	5	74
Ingram, Reed	HD-075	R	34%	27%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	8	5	6
Jackson, Thomas	HD-068	D	21%	18%	-	2	-	-	X	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	83
Jones, Sam	HD-099	D	21%	20%	-	2	-	-	X	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	83
Kiel, Jamie	HD-018	R	34%	35%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	8	5	6
Kirkland, Mike	HD-023	R	34%	34%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	8	5	6
Kitchens, Wes	HD-027	R	32%	27%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	X	8	5	25
Lamb, Bill	HD-062	R	34%	34%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	8	5	6
Lawrence, Kelvin	HD-069	D	19%	22%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	89
Ledbetter, Nathaniel	HD-024	R	26%	26%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	36
Lee, Paul	HD-086	R	34%	26%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	8	5	6
Lipscomb, Craig	HD-030	R	28%	26%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	X	5	29
Lomax, James	HD-020	R	23%	23%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	X	3	-	5	78
Lovvorn, Joe	HD-079	R	34%	24%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	8	5	6
Marques, Rhett	HD-091	R	26%	25%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	36
McCampbell, Artis	HD-071	D	19%	21%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	89
McClammy, Patrice	HD-076	D	19%	32%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	89
Mooney, Arnold	HD-043	R	37%	43%	8	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	X	5	4
Moore, Mary	HD-059	D	18%	27%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	X	5	103
Moore, Parker	HD-004	R	26%	27%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	36



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<b>PRO-GROWTH POSITION</b>					N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	
<b>POINTS</b>					8	2	9	8	10	4	4	2	4	2	2	8	7	8	2	4	3	8	5	
Morris, TaShina	HD-077	D	19%	17%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	89
Oliver, Ed	HD-081	R	24%	26%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	X	-	5	74
Paramore, Marcus	HD-089	R	35%	35%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	X	4	3	8	5	5
Paschal, Kenneth	HD-073	R	26%	35%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	36
Pettus, Phillip	HD-001	R	26%	26%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	36
Plump, Fred	HD-055	D	n/a	12%	-	2	-	-	-	-	I	2	-	2	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	
Pringle, Chris	HD-101	R	26%	25%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	36
Rafferty, Neil	HD-054	D	19%	18%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	89
Rehm, Richard	HD-085	R	34%	34%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	8	5	6
Reynolds, Rex	HD-021	R	28%	25%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	X	5	29
Rigsby, Phillip	HD-025	R	34%	34%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	8	5	6
Robbins, Ben	HD-033	R	28%	37%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	X	5	29
Robertson, Chad	HD-040	R	26%	26%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	36
Rogers, John	HD-052	D	22%	30%	-	2	-	-	-	X	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	X	5	79
Sellers, Patrick	HD-057	D	20%	20%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	X	-	-	5	86
Sells, Chris	HD-090	R	26%	26%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	36
Shaver, Ginny	HD-039	R	26%	23%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	36
Shaw, Mike	HD-047	R	26%	26%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	36
Shedd, Randall	HD-011	R	26%	27%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	36
Shirey, Mark	HD-100	R	26%	26%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	36
Simpson, Matt	HD-096	R	26%	26%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	36

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<b>PRO-GROWTH POSITION</b>					N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	
<b>POINTS</b>					8	2	9	8	10	4	4	2	4	2	2	8	7	8	2	4	3	8	5	
Smith, Ivan	HD-042	R	24%	27%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	74
Sorrells, Jeff	HD-087	R	26%	25%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	36
South, Kyle	HD-016	R	31%	26%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	X	X	-	4	3	-	5	27
Stadthagen, Scott	HD-009	R	26%	28%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	36
Standridge, David	HD-034	R	26%	32%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	36
Starnes, Jerry	HD-088	R	26%	26%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	36
Stringer, Shane	HD-102	R	26%	27%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	36
Stubbs, Troy	HD-031	R	34%	34%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	8	5	6
Tillman, Ontario	HD-056	D	22%	22%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	2	8	-	-	-	-	X	-	5	79
Travis, Curtis	HD-072	D	19%	19%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	89
Treadaway, Allen	HD-051	R	26%	28%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	36
Underwood, Kerry	HD-003	R	34%	34%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	8	5	6
Wadsworth, Timothy	HD-014	R	34%	33%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	8	5	6
Warren, Pebblin	HD-082	D	22%	23%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	-	3	-	5	79
Whitt, Andy	HD-006	R	34%	28%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	8	5	6
Whorton, Ritchie	HD-022	R	34%	35%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	8	5	6
Wilcox, Margie	HD-104	R	33%	26%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	X	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	8	5	24
Wood, Debbie	HD-038	R	26%	25%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	36
Wood, Randy	HD-036	R	26%	24%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	-	5	36
Woods, Matthew	HD-013	R	34%	34%	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	8	5	6
Yarbrough, Ernie	HD-007	R	42%	42%	8	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	8	-	-	-	4	3	8	5	2

# Alabama 2023 | House Vote Descriptions

## HB 1

### SUPPLEMENTAL COVID SPENDING

#### SPLURGE

#### (CFGF OPPOSES)

This bill appropriates over \$1 billion in remaining federal COVID funds for pet projects. Specifically, the legislation appropriates \$660 million for various infrastructure projects including costly broadband boondoggles, \$340 million in handouts to government-run healthcare programs, and \$55 million in corporate welfare handouts and subsidy programs for well-connected industries. The \$2 trillion price tag on ARPA is one of the primary drivers of the record inflation eating into household budgets and family finances. Earmarking federal money wrongly seen as “free” for myriad big government projects creates a false spending floor for future legislative sessions, building pressure for future spending and tax hikes. The Alabama House passed the bill, 102-3, on March 14, 2023. The Alabama Senate passed it, 30-3, on March 16, 2023.

## HB 115

### MINOR INCOME TAX CUT

#### (CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill implements a modest reduction in the Alabama income tax rate. Specifically, the legislation lowers the top individual rate from 5 percent to 4.95 percent over a five-year period. The threshold applies to individuals with taxable income in excess of \$3,000 and married couples filing jointly with taxable income in excess of \$6,000. Estimates suggest the rate reduction would save taxpayers \$6.4 million in 2024 and \$52 million per year by 2028. Cutting taxes for hardworking Alabama families is vital for economic growth, especially amid persistent inflation and soaring energy prices. The Alabama House passed the bill, 105-0, on April 6, 2023. The Alabama Senate did not take it up.

## HB 124

### GENERAL FUND BUDGET BINGE

#### (CFGF OPPOSES)

This bill allocates over \$2.9 billion in spending for the State General Fund. This is a 7.4 percent increase from last year’s budget and yet again is the largest general fund budget in Alabama history. The legislation includes a 2 percent across-the-board pay raise for state government employees, an 8.7 percent increase in Medicaid spending, and an eye-popping 47 percent increase for the Department of Public Health. The bill does succeed in paying off the rainy day fund debt, but in an environment marked by persistent inflation and high costs due to profligate spending, this bill further ramps up the mounting spending burden on hardworking Alabama taxpayers. The Alabama House passed the bill, 105-0, on April 25, 2023. The Alabama Senate passed it, 31-2, on May 25, 2023.

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### HB 125

#### SUPPLEMENTAL SPENDING BONANZA (CFGF OPPOSES)

This bill allocates another \$190 million in spending for last year's General Fund. Specifically, the legislation appropriates new funding for the FY2023 general fund budget bringing total spending for last year's budget to nearly \$3 billion. The bill dumps \$50 million into the general budget reserve fund, \$6 million for elevator upgrades in the state Capitol complex, \$2 million for upgrades to the governor's mansion, and \$3 million for tourism use in the 2022 World Games which already occurred. Instead of backfilling the current fiscal year with another 7 percent spending increase, lawmakers should instead focus on setting the future baseline to reduce the spending burden on hardworking Alabamans. The Alabama House passed the bill, 105-0, on April 25, 2023. The Alabama Senate passed it, 28-7, on May 25, 2023.

### HB 126

#### NEW MEDICAID SLUSH FUND (CFGF OPPOSES)

This bill creates a new Medicaid emergency slush fund. Specifically, the legislation authorizes a new \$100 million Medicaid emergency fund to offset future "budget shortfalls" and gives the governor and state Medicaid commissioner sole discretion to approve expenditures from the new emergency fund. Additionally, the bill appropriates \$88 million to go into the fund for FY2024. The Medicaid welfare program is rife with fraud and poor health outcomes. Lawmakers should focus on moving Alabamans off Medicaid and constraining spending instead of creating new slush funds to keep massive welfare programs afloat if the state spends more money than it takes in. The Alabama House passed the bill, 101-0, on April 25, 2023. The Alabama Senate passed it, 34-0, on May 25, 2023.

### HB 133

#### CRONY INCOME TAX CREDIT (CFGF OPPOSES)

This bill authorizes a new income tax exemption for medical students and certain preceptors. Specifically, the legislation creates a new tax carveout for optometrists, dentists, advanced nurses, and other medical professionals who practice in designated rural or underserved areas equal to \$425 or \$500 per rotation and an annual maximum of either \$5,100 or \$6,000. The program is capped at \$780,000 per year. This crony credit rewards hand-selected professionals with substantial taxpayer-funded rewards so long as they practice medicine in government-specified areas of the state. The Alabama House passed the bill, 104-0, on April 25, 2023. The Alabama Senate passed it, 31-0, on June 1, 2023.

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### HB 175

#### POORLY DESIGNED GROCERY TAX REBATE (CFGF OPPOSES)

This bill authorizes a one-time grocery tax rebate. Specifically, the legislation provides a one-time refundable tax credit to taxpayers equal to \$150 for individuals and \$300 for married couples filing jointly at a total estimated cost of \$390 million for FY2023. While providing relief from rising grocery prices is important, a better approach is to waive, reduce, or even eliminate existing consumption taxes instead of sending out what is effectively a stimulus check. The Alabama House passed the bill, 101-0, on May 25, 2023. The Alabama Senate passed it, 25-5, on June 1, 2023.

### HB 217

#### MINOR OVERTIME INCOME TAX EXEMPTION (CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill exempts a portion of overtime pay from being taxed. Specifically, the legislation exempts the first \$2,000 in overtime pay from working more than 40 hours per week from being considered as gross income. The bill locks

the exemption in place through 2026 and is estimated to save taxpayers at least \$60 million over the next three years. Measures that allow hardworking Alabamans to keep more of their money are key drivers of economic growth and opportunity. The Alabama House passed the bill, 105-0, on May 2, 2023. The Alabama Senate passed it, 34-0, on June 1, 2023.

### HB 241

#### CRONY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EXPANSION (CFGF OPPOSES)

This bill extends the corporate welfare programs in the Alabama Jobs Act through 2028 and renews the annualized caps on taxpayer-backed subsidies, which is set at \$375 million for 2024 and ratchets up to \$475 million in 2028. Additionally, the bill adds costly Green New Deal initiatives as qualifying projects eligible to receive taxpayer funds and institutes new taxpayer-subsidized slush fund for tourism businesses equal to \$1 million per year or \$5 million per company. The slush fund is capped at \$10 million per year. Lawmakers should not engage in such flagrant cronyism that rewards

well-connected interests at the expense of hardworking Alabaman families. The Alabama House passed the bill, 105-0, on April 13, 2023. The Alabama Senate passed it, 29-6, on April 20, 2023.

### HB 334

#### LIMITED EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS (CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill creates a new education savings account pilot program for students with unique needs. Specifically, the new targeted ESA allows K-12 students of active-duty service members, foster children, and students with both physical and intellectual disabilities to receive funds equal to 95 percent of the per pupil allocation for tuition, tutoring, textbooks, and specialty educational services at a school of their choice. The total annual amount is equal to \$5,600 per student with the pilot program allowing 500 students to participate in the 2024-2025 school year followed by another 500 students added each year thereafter. The Alabama House passed the bill, 99-5, on May 11, 2023. The Alabama Senate did not take it up.

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**HB 429**

**ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY TAX GIVEAWAY**

**(CFGF OPPOSES)**

This bill expands an existing tax handout for music and film entertainment companies. Specifically, the legislation increases the rebate threshold for production companies from \$20 million in FY2023 to \$150 million in FY2026 and caps the rebate at 5 percent of available funds. Further, the bill creates a new \$20,000 floor for music production companies to receive the tax rebate and caps the aggregate annual rebate for music companies at \$2 million. This type of flagrant cronyism—wherein Alabamans subsidize wealthy production companies to entice them to film or produce in the state—enriches a select few well-connected, government-preferred entities at the expense of hardworking taxpayers. The Alabama House passed the bill, 100-1, on May 23, 2023. The Alabama Senate did not take it up.

**HB 479**

**SIGNIFICANT GROCERY TAX PHASEDOWN (CFGF SUPPORTS)**

This bill implements a multiyear reduction in the state grocery tax. Specifically, the legislation reduces the existing 4 percent sales and use tax on groceries to 3 percent beginning on September 1, 2023. The rate is further reduced down to 2 percent by September 1, 2025, assuming net receipts to the Education Trust Fund in FY2026 increase 2 percent over the previous year. Additionally, the bill preempts local governments from imposing additional grocery taxes and caps local grocery sales tax rates at the statewide rate. Estimates suggest the cut would save taxpayers \$470 million over the next two years. Reducing tax rates is the cleanest and most effective way to provide needed relief for hardworking Alabamans. The Alabama House passed the bill, 103-0, on May 25, 2023. The Alabama Senate passed it, 31-0, on June 1, 2023.

**SB 87**

**EXTRAVAGANT SUPPLEMENTAL SPENDING PACKAGE**

**(CFGF OPPOSES)**

This bill appropriates \$2.78 billion for numerous programs for FY 2023. Specifically, the legislation appropriates \$550 million for income tax rebates, \$60 million in one-time COVID-related spending to the Alabama retirement system, \$108 million in one-time spending to the Department of Commerce for green energy vehicles and projects, \$893 million in one-time capital improvements for every higher education institution in the state, and \$480 million to the Department of Education in one-time expenses to “offset” inflationary increases for capital improvement projects. Lawmakers should operate within the confines of the budget process instead of passing new supplemental spending packages for the current fiscal year equal to 25 percent of the upcoming Education Trust Fund that drastically increases spending baselines. The Alabama House passed the bill, 101-1, on May 25, 2023. The Alabama Senate passed it, 35-0, on May 4, 2023.

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### SB 88

#### EDUCATION TRUST FUND BUDGET BINGE (CFGF OPPOSES)

This bill allocates nearly \$8.8 billion in spending to the Education Trust Fund. This is once again the largest education fund budget in Alabama's history after the previous year's highest at \$8.2 billion. This is a \$537 million increase--roughly 6.5 percent--over 2022 education spending. The legislation includes nearly \$106 million in new spending for colleges and universities and a 2 percent across-the-board pay raise for teachers with fewer than nine years of employment. In an environment marked by persistent inflation and high costs due to profligate spending, this bill foists yet another undue burden on hardworking Alabama taxpayers. The Alabama House passed the bill, 102-0, on May 25, 2023. The Alabama Senate passed it, 35-0, on May 4, 2023.

### SB 197

#### FRAUDULENT ANTI-FRAUD PROTECTION (CFGF OPPOSES)

This bill purports to enact anti-fraud measures for state agencies to implement before handing out benefits. Specifically, the

legislation requires agencies to consult with the Department of Public Examiners of Public Accounts to determine if some systems or services could assist the agencies in mitigating fraud. However, the bill explicitly carves out crony tax credit programs, corporate tax rebates, and taxpayer-funded grant programs that benefit well-connected industries from receiving similar scrutiny. In a bid to allegedly fight fraud, the legislature excluded programs that benefit government-preferred entities. The Alabama House passed the bill, 102-0, on June 1, 2023. The Alabama Senate passed it, 31-0, on May 3, 2023.

### SB 261

#### PROHIBITION ON ESG CONTRACTING (CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill prohibits state agencies from entering into contracts with certain entities that prioritize woke Environmental, Social, Governance (ESG) edicts over the pecuniary interests of clients, consumers, and taxpayers. Specifically, the legislation prohibits Alabama state agencies from contracting with entities that engage in boycotts or discrimination against certain

industries, including the reliable energy sector, at the expense of investors and taxpayers. The Alabama House passed the bill, 74-27, on May 31, 2023. The Alabama Senate passed it, 27-8, on May 18, 2023.

### SB 263

#### MODEST SCHOOL CHOICE ELIGIBILITY ENHANCEMENT (CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill expands an existing education scholarship program for low-income K-12 students. Specifically, the legislation modifies the Alabama Accountability Act to expand eligibility for students who attend the worst failing schools to receive a scholarship to attend a different K-12 school by increasing the qualifying income threshold from 185 percent of the federal poverty level to 250 percent. Additionally, the bill nearly triples the number of schools that would qualify under the program and raises the annual scholarship cap from \$30 million to \$40 million in FY2025. The Alabama House passed the bill, 75-22, on May 31, 2023. The Alabama Senate passed it, 26-7, on May 24, 2023.

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### SB 278

#### HIGHER EDUCATION BAILOUT FUND

##### (CFGF OPPOSES)

This bill implements a reckless bailout fund for colleges and universities in Alabama, specifically Birmingham Southern College. Specifically, the legislation creates the Distressed Institutions of Higher Education Loan Program Fund to serve as a taxpayer-funded bailout enterprise for universities and colleges that have been established for more than 50 years facing financial difficulties that could lead to the institution shutting down. The bill empowers the Treasurer to set the loan terms and conditions, including the interest rate, and provides minimal oversight authority within the legislature. Taxpayers, particularly those who never attended college, should not be asked to subsidize front-end tuition for failing institutions and then fund the subsequent bailouts when they do fail. The Alabama House passed the bill, 66-27, on May 25, 2023. The Alabama Senate passed it, 33-0, on May 4, 2023.

### SB 330

#### CENTRAL BANK DIGITAL CURRENCY

##### PROHIBITION

##### (CFGF SUPPORTS)

This bill prohibits the use of a prospective central bank digital currency (CBDC) by government agencies in Alabama. Specifically, the legislation prohibits a digital currency issued by the Federal Reserve or other related entity from being an acceptable currency for state agencies in the state of Alabama. Additionally, the bill prohibits the state government from participating in any federal testing of a CBDC effort. This is an important protection for families, workers, and consumers as a central digital currency would, in effect, give the federal government control over every citizen's bank account in a massive reorganization of the relationship between citizens and government. The Alabama House passed the bill, 103-0, on June 6, 2023. The Alabama Senate passed it, 32-0, on May 24, 2023.

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