

**From:** [mbranham@scchildren.org](mailto:mbranham@scchildren.org) <[mbranham@scchildren.org](mailto:mbranham@scchildren.org)>  
**To:** [Soura, ChristianChristianSoura@gov.sc.gov](mailto:Soura,ChristianChristianSoura@gov.sc.gov)  
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March 25, 2014

## Child Well-Being Legislation Moving Through Committees

[H. 4408](#), adding members to the State Child Fatality Advisory Committee, received a favorable report by the House Judiciary Committee. The bill now moves to the House floor for a vote.

[H. 3124](#) received a favorable report by the Senate Judiciary committee. The bill prohibits employers from punishing or dismissing mandated reporter employees who make a child abuse or neglect report. This bill now moves to the Senate floor.

[H. 4665](#), prohibiting child care facilities from administering medication without parental consents, received a favorable report from the House Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs subcommittee. Amendments provide a consistent child care definition and modified documentation requirement. This bill moves to full committee for consideration.

[H. 4386](#), prohibiting texting while driving, received a favorable report by the House Education and Public Works Committee. [H. 3994](#), Read to Succeed, advanced with amendments for teacher training, accountability and reporting requirements for schools. Both bills move to the House floor.

[S. 137](#), also known as Emma's Law, was approved by the House Judiciary Subcommittee. The legislation would require DUI first offenders to use an "ignition interlock." The bill moves to the full House Judiciary Committee.

### For your calendar

- 3 p.m., Tuesday, March 25. Senate Judiciary Committee will meet to continue debate on [H. 3024](#) to expand list of mandated reporters and consider [S. 915](#)

- regarding admissibility of out-of-court statements made by children in instances of suspected abuse and neglect.
- 10 a.m., Wednesday, March 26. Senate DSS Oversight Committee will continue their series of hearings.
- 10 a.m., Wednesday, March 26. Senate K-12 Education Subcommittee will take up several piece of legislation including [H. 3428](#), First Steps Reauthorization and [H. 4749](#), early literacy assessment.

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## Committee on Children Preview 2014 Annual Report

The Joint Citizens and Legislative Committee on Children met last week to highlight the 2014 Annual Report. The report provides an overview of testimony provided to the committee through the fall 2013 hearings and outlines priorities for 2014, including a focus on early childhood literacy and adverse childhood experiences. The full report is expected to be released to the General Assembly in a few weeks and posted on the [committee's webpage](#).

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## First-time index shows children of color at heightened disadvantage in South Carolina

**Race for Results identifies need to create more opportunity for success for all children**

In the first-time index and new KIDS COUNT® policy report, Race for Results: Building a Path to Opportunity for All Children, South Carolina trails national levels. This new compilation shows South Carolina below national figures for its three largest racial and ethnic groups on how children are progressing on key milestones. The full report will publish Tuesday, April 1.

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## Child Welfare Headlines from Across the Country

### [Pennsylvania House Panel Approves Bill To Reduce Sexual Abuse in Schools](#)

The Pennsylvania House Education Committee on Wednesday unanimously approved a bill requiring schools to review the work histories of applicants who would work with children and prohibiting them from entering into agreements that would keep investigations into suspected abuse or sexual misconduct by an employee confidential.

### [New Jersey Law Firm Creates Child Abuse Reporting App](#)

The firm Lyons & Associates has launched the 'NJ Divorce App', which includes a simple mechanism for reporting domestic violence and child abuse to the appropriate authorities. The app instantly connects users to the Division of Child Protection and Permanency and to domestic violence shelters and programs across New Jersey.

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Children's Trust of South Carolina | 1634 Main Street, Suite 100 | Columbia | SC | 29201