



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE | April 25, 2017

We'll post the [Legislative Update and Bill Tracker](#) on the Child Care Aware of Minnesota website each Tuesday to reflect the activity through the previous Friday. You can read a brief overview of introduced bills, committee level or floor action, and other news related to **early care and education and school age care**. If you have questions or additions to recommend, please email Ann McCully at: [AnnM@childcareawaremn.org](mailto:AnnM@childcareawaremn.org).

### CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

Now that the Legislature has returned from its break, work has begun to create agreement around each of **the omnibus bills** through the use of conference committees. These committees consist of 5 House and 5 Senate members that are tasked with creating a final bill that will be brought back to both of the House and Senate for a straight "up or down" vote and sent on to the Governor for signature or veto.

House and Senate staff have created comprehensive ["side by side" documents](#) that describe the narrative content of each bill and how they align or are different, and budget [tracking sheets](#) that indicate how the House, Senate, and Governor's budget proposals for each element align or differ.

Below is the list of the conference committee members for each bill (now assigned only one bill number), with the name of the Chair of each body is listed in **bold**. There is a brief summary of the elements related to early care and education below each conference committee list, but the tools above (linked to the most current Legislative information) will provide a more complete overview.

#### E-12 EDUCATION CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS – HF 890

**House Conferees:** Loon, Erickson, Kresha, Bennett, Murphy M.

**Senate Conferees:** Nelson, Pratt, Weber, Eichorn, Wiger

These bills include the following early education funding and policies: Voluntary Pre-kindergarten, ECFE, School Readiness, Head Start, Reading Corps, Early Learning Scholarships, Promise Neighborhoods/Transformation zones, After School Community Learning, Home Visiting, and Parent Aware, as well as new proposals around creation/study of an Office of Early Education and Development.

#### HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS – SF 800

**House Conferees:** Dean; Schultz; Schomacker; Albright; Kiel

**Senate Conferees:** Benson; Abeler; Housley; Utke; Lourey

These bills include the following early education funding and policies: Child Care Assistance, Child Care licensing/fraud prevention, Public Health Nurse and other Home Visiting, Crisis Nursery, Early Dental Services, and a data sharing pilot.

#### **TAXES CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS – HF 4**

**House Conferees:** Chamberlain, Dahms, Miller, Senjem, Rest  
**Senate Conferees:** Davids, Drazkowski, McDonald, Hertaus, Marquart

These bills include the following early education funding and policies: Expansion of the Education expense credit to include Pre-K, changes to the Dependent Care Tax Credit, and Student Loan forgiveness for education professionals (including early care and education careers).

#### **HIGHER EDUCATION CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS – SF 2214**

**House Conferees:** Fischbach, Clausen, Draheim, Jensen, Anderson, P.  
**Senate Conferees:** Nornes, Omar, Daniels, Christensen, Whelan

These bills include the following early education funding and policies: Increase in funding and time of use for students with higher education child care grants, and a requirement postsecondary education institutions provide information to pregnant and parenting students.

#### **JOB CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS – SF 1937**

**House Conferees:** Miller, Dahms, Osmek, Anderson, Champion  
**Senate Conferees:** Garafolo, Newberger, Hoppe, O’Neil, Mahoney

These bills include the following early education funding and policies: YWCA job skills development program (focused on the CDA), child care business start-up and expansion grants, FATHER project funding, a women-run cooperative child care business pilot, and child care business training through WomenVenture.

#### **UPCOMING DATES**

- **May 22:** Session adjournment deadline