



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE | May 2, 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.

SPENDING TARGETS

House and Senate Leaders announced that they had reached agreements on spending targets for each bill on **Friday, April 28**. This includes a decision to take the Senate position of **\$18.57 billion** on E-12 education, and a compromise position of **\$13.82 billion** in spending for health and human services. The joint targets include **\$1.15 billion** for tax relief.

Now that targets have been established, conference committees will work quickly during the week of May 1 to come to agreements and bring bills to the floor for votes. House and Senate leaders have stated a goal of Thursday, May 4 to have a report to the Governor.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

Now As a reminder, 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. Committee action and results can also be found on the [conference committee page](#).

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**, and a brief summary of the elements related to early care and education.

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