



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE | February 25, 2020

Welcome to the Care Aware Legislative Update. This narrative update, along with our Bill Tracker, will be posted on the [Child Care Aware of Minnesota website](#) each Tuesday (reflecting activity through the previous Friday).

Each week, we will provide a brief overview of bills that have been introduced, action that has been taken at the committee level or on the floor, and any other pertinent news related to early care and education and school-age care issues.

If you have additions to recommend to the bill tracker, please [contact Ann McCully](#).

OVERVIEW

The pace of session continues to move quickly, with several early childhood bills receiving hearings, including some bills that originated in 2019 that were heard and re-referred to the floor. The House and Senate voted to move the first committee deadline to March 20 (from March 13) so that there will be one more week to hear bills in committee.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

The House Early Childhood Division met twice this week to hear **HF 1-Kotyza-Witthuhn** (introduced as HF 3071-Pinto) which includes a number of early childhood program elements. The bill was passed as amended and re-referred to Health and Human Services Finance.

The House Education Policy Committee met twice this week: once to hear a bill from last session focused on adding evidence-based requirements to state grants (**HF 125-Bennett**) which was re-referred to General Orders, and once to take up a bill to strengthen the state's Increase Teachers of Color and American Indian Teachers Act (**HF 3201-Kundesh-Podein**) which was re-referred to the Education Finance Committee.

The House Ways and Means Committee met to hear and amend the Paid Family Leave bill (**HF 5-Halvorson**), which was sent to General Orders.

The House Jobs and Economic Development Committee met to hear a bill related to parenting leave (**HF 3073-Moran**), which was re-referred to the Committee on Labor.

The House Health and Human Services Policy Committee re-referred a bill modifying the Birth to Eight Pilot Project (**HF 3311-Richardson**) to the Early Childhood Finance Division without further recommendation.

The House Health and Human Services Finance Division received an overview of DHS program integrity improvements since last session.

The House Education Finance Division received an update on pregnant and parenting student transportation and Reach Out and Read, two items that were acted on last session.

The Senate Human Services Reform Finance and Policy Committee met and heard a bill to modify the Birth to Eight Pilot Project (**SF 3061-Abeler**) which was referred to General Orders.

The Senate Family Care and Aging Committee re-referred last year's bill to extend and clarify child care training timelines (**SF 979-Kiffmeyer**) to General Orders.

To find out about other upcoming hearings, visit the Minnesota State Legislature's [Combined Legislative Meeting Calendar](#). To see the committees that are served by your legislators, view the [House Committee Roster](#) and [Senate Committee Roster](#).

BILL INTRODUCTIONS

For more information about each bill, please download [our weekly Bill Tracker](#). This list includes topics, numbers, authors, and general committee referrals for bills introduced through February 20, 2020. **New bills are highlighted in yellow.**

- Basic sliding fee child care assistance program forecast by Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) commissioner requirement, and appropriation (**HF 1228-Wazlawik/SF 3241-Wiklund**)
- Early childhood: children ages birth to three additional funding and opportunities created; home visiting, early childhood education, and child care assistance programs governed; and money appropriated (**HF 3071-Pinto**)
- Pregnancy and parenting leave incumbency requirement modified (**HF 3073-Moran**)
- Wabasso; early childhood learning center funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated. (**HF 3112-Torkelson/SF 2930-Dahms**)
- Child care agencies-county agencies required to publish and distribute information about variances (**HF 3173-Wazlawik/SF 3197-Kiffmeyer**)
- Prekindergarten through grade 12; policy and technical changes made to provisions including general education, schools, teachers, definitions, and timelines; and reports required (**HF 3186-Youakim/SF 3393-Clausen**)
- Increase Teachers of Color Act strengthened, increase in percentage of teachers of color and American Indian teachers sought, reports required, and money appropriated (**HF 3201-Kunesh-Podein**)
- State Building Code; baby diaper changing station installation in public restrooms required (**HF 3222-Becker-Finn**)
- Commission on Fatherhood created, annual report on family relationship and economic stability issues required, and money appropriated (**HF 3301-Erickson/SF 3383-Mathews**)
- Birth to Age 8 Pilot Project modified (**HF 3311 Richardson/SF 3061 Abeler**)
- Human services provisions modified regarding children and family services, community supports, older adult continuing care, and health care; criminal penalties established (**HF 3390-Moran**)
- Office of Higher Education policy changes provided, including financial aid, institutional approval, and Minnesota college savings plan; and report required (**HF 3392-Bernardy**)
- A bill for an act relating to capital investment; appropriating money for and establishing the greater Minnesota child care facility capital grant program (**HF 3497-Brand/SF 3429-Housley**)
- A bill for an act relating to education; limiting the use of individual-use screens in preschool and kindergarten (**HF 3504- Morrison/SF 3310-Cwodzinski**)

- A bill for an act relating to capital investment; appropriating money for a family and child services building for the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians (**HF 3510-Grossell/SF 3615-Utke**)
- Family day care training hour requirements applicability modification (**SF 3274-Kiffmeyer**)
- Group family day care child-adult capacity ratios and age distribution restrictions modification (**SF 3292-Utke**)
- Early learning scholarships appropriation (**SF 3313-Nelson**)
- Child care assistance funding priorities for eligible families modification, and allocation of funds adjustment (**SF 3402-Hayden**)
- Children with disabilities child care access expansion grants (**SF 3473-Relph**)

COMMITTEE DEADLINES

- **Friday, March 20, 2020:** Committees must act favorably on bills in the house of origin
- **Friday, March 27, 2020:** Committees must act favorably on bills, or companion bills, that met the first deadline
- **Friday, April 3, 2020:** Committees must act favorably on major appropriation and finance bills

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Thursday, February 27:** The February [budget forecast](#) is released at 11:15 a.m.
- **Monday, March 23:** Governor's State of the State address is at 7:00 p.m.
- **Thursday, March 26:** Advocacy for Children Day
- **Saturday, April 4 – Monday, April 13:** Legislative recess
- The Legislature must complete its work by **Monday, May 18, 2020**