



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE | March 3, 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 biggest development last week was the release of the [February Budget Forecast](#). A small increase to the general fund revenue forecast along with a similar-sized reduction in spending estimates resulted in a projected surplus of **\$1.513 billion** for the FY 2020-21 biennium, \$181 million larger than the November estimate. This is the estimate that will now be used by the Governor and the Legislature to make spending decisions this session.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

The House Early Childhood Division met twice this week: once to receive a presentation on the work of the Governor's Children's Cabinet and an overview of the new Preschool Development Grant, and then to take up the following bills:

- **HF 1512-Sandell:** Early Education Teacher Licensure, which was ***amended and moved to the General Register***
- **HF 3222-Becker-Finn:** Requiring baby diaper changing stations in public restrooms, ***which was laid over***
- **HF 3311-Richardson:** Modifications to the Birth to Eight Pilot Project, which was ***moved to the General Register***
- **HF 2319-Pinto:** Human Services program integrity modified, which was ***re-referred to Health and Human Services Finance Committee***

The House Health and Human Services Finance Division heard the HHS provisions of **HF 1-Pinto**, additional funding and opportunities for children ages birth to three, programs and funding for prenatal care services, home visiting, early childhood education, and child care assistance. **This bill was amended and laid over.**

The House Education Policy Committee heard **HF 3186-Youakim**, the Prekindergarten through grade 12 policy bill. **This bill was laid over.**

The House Education Finance Division heard **HF 3201-Kunesh-Podein**, The Increase Teachers of Color Act. **This bill was laid over.**

The Senate E-12 Finance and Policy Committee took up the following bills:

- **SF 3606-Nelson:** Early learning and child care provisions to require kindergarten readiness assessment and quality rating and improvement system evaluation modifications, which was *re-referred to Human Services Reform Finance and Policy Committee*
- **SF 3313-Nelson:** Early learning scholarships appropriation, which was *laid over as amended*
- **SF 1367-Housley:** Early learning scholarships eligibility modification and data sharing authorization; licensing violation data classification modification; child care assistance program payment data definition expansion; human services display of results of child care licensing reports modification, which was *laid over as amended*.

To find out about any 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 28, 2020** (this list does *not* include bills introduced last session, but they can be found on the Bill Tracker if they have received hearings). **New bills are highlighted in yellow.**

- 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 1-Kotyza-Witthuhn. Originally introduced as HF 3071**)
- 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/SF 3686-Little**)
- 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**)
- 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**)
- Child care assistance funding priorities for eligible families, modification and allocation of funds adjustment (**HF 3672-Noor/SF 3402-Hayden**)

- Income and asset exclusion expiration date extended for public assistance program eligibility as part of the income and child development in the first three year of life demonstration project (**HF 3678-Bahner/SF 3579-Marty**)
- Children with disabilities child care access expansion grants (**HF 3693-Mann/SF 3473-Relph**)
- Family day care training hour requirements applicability modification (**HF 3709-Wazlawik/SF 3274-Kiffmeyer**)
- Child care: personal liability exemption established, county liability modified, and uniform family child care variance application use required (**HF 3822-Wazlawik/SF 3698-Kiffmeyer**)
- Child care provider definition modification; child care services grants provisions modification (**HF 3884-Wazlawik/SF 3799-Housley**)
- Refundable tax credit for qualified child care professionals established (**HF 3896-Pryor/SF 3732-Anderson, P.**)
- Group family day care child-adult capacity ratios and age distribution restrictions modification (**HF 3899-Grossell/SF 3292-Utke**)
- Early learning provision policy and technical changes made (**HF 3902-Pinto**)
- Basic sliding fee child care assistance program forecast by Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) commissioner requirement and appropriation (**SF 3241-Wiklund**)
- Child care assistance provider reimbursement rates modification (**SF 3608-Hayden**)
- Early learning scholarships appropriation (**SF 3313-Nelson**)
- Early learning and child care provisions to require kindergarten readiness assessment and quality rating and improvement system evaluation modifications (**SF 3606-Nelson**)
- Child care assistance program providers proof of surety bond coverage requirement; unspent human services grant funding by counties and tribes reallocation authorization; qualified professionals supervising personal care assistants enrollment requirement; reporting requirement (**SF 3703-Abeler**)

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

- **Monday, March 23:** Governor's State of the State address 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**