



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE | March 17, 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

On March 15, Minnesota legislative leaders announced that they're planning to effectively recess the legislative session for up to a month, coming in only on an as-needed basis to pass legislation related to the coronavirus situation.

Leaders from both parties released a statement on their plans, saying that "over the next few weeks, the Minnesota Legislature will continue to work, but by alternative means." Lawmakers will follow state health department guidelines to limit large gatherings, increase cleaning, and move to off-site working when possible.

"The Legislative bodies and committees will meet in floor and committee session on an on-call basis from March 16 through April 14," the legislative leaders said in a statement. "This means there will not be standing floor and committee meetings, but we will meet on the House and Senate floors and in committees with advance notice to members and to the public. All meetings will be held in spaces that allow six feet of distance between individuals."

Another important development was the release of the **Governor's Supplemental Budget Bill** on Thursday, March 12. Given the current COVID-19 crisis and a desire to reserve funds to address impacts, this budget was very limited. Here are the elements in the supplemental budget that relate to early childhood education and school age care:

Full Services Community Schools: \$2 million in 2020-21; **\$4 million** in 2021-22

The Governor recommends reestablishing the Full-Service Community Schools grant program. This program establishes planning and implementation grants to racially isolated or low-performing schools to provide wraparound services chosen by the school community. Services may include onsite health and dental clinics, mental health services, legal services, family resource centers, college access information, out-of-school activities, or other family support services.

Head Start Tribal allocation: \$377,000 in 2020-21; **\$754,000** in 2021-22

The Governor recommends restoring state tribal Head Start program funding to FY 2018 levels through a hold harmless provision. Since FY 2018, all but two tribal programs had a reduction of federal funding and thus state allocations. This

proposal would create more reliable funding streams for these programs. Additionally, the Governor recommends a policy change that allows Head Start funds for all local agencies to be used for infrastructure as well as operations. Head Start is one of few programs that offer comprehensive services and serves children and families who are at or below 100% of the poverty line.

CCAP Rates: \$137,000 in 2020-21; \$84,215 in 2021-22

The Governor recommends increasing Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) rates to help families afford the cost of childcare. CCAP serves approximately 15,000 families and 30,000 children each month. This recommendation would increase maximum rates to the 30th percentile every three years with each new market survey. At least 80 percent of families and their providers would see an increase in their CCAP rates as a result of this recommendation. Additionally, this recommendation updates CCAP requirements for unlicensed child care providers. If this recommendation is not funded, Minnesota will continue to be out of compliance with Child Care Development Block Grant requirements and could face a penalty of up to 5 percent of the federal funding.

Child Care grants: \$2 million in 2020-21; No funding in 2021-22

The Governor recommends funding for the Childcare Economic Development Grant program. The program awards funding to communities to increase the supply of child care providers and support regional economic development. It is estimated that with this additional investment, over \$10 million in local matching funds will be leveraged with 4,000-6,000 more children throughout the state receiving child care.

Strengthen Child Mortality Review Panels: \$659,000 in 2020-21; \$1.3 million in 2021-22

The Governor recommends re-establishing the Fetal and Infant Mortality Review Committee to review infant and child mortality cases. The Department of Health will create panels that will review fetal, infant, and child deaths that are classified as accidental, natural, or due to sudden unexpected infant death and recommend health and safety strategies to prevent future deaths and injury.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

The House Early Childhood Division met twice last week to take up the following bills:

- **HF3504** (Morrison) Preschool and kindergarten individual-use screen use limited, and money appropriated. ***This bill was amended and laid over.***
- **HF3693** (Mann) Children with disabilities; access to child care expansion grants authorized. ***This bill was amended and re-referred to Health and Human Services Finance Committee.***
- **HF3672** (Noor) Child care assistance funding priorities for eligible families modified, and fund allocation adjusted. ***This bill was amended and re-referred to Health and Human Services Finance Committee.***
- **HF3737** (Pryor) Human services hearing procedures, crimes, background studies, and licensure requirements provisions modified. ***This bill was referred to the General Register.***
- **HF3954** (Koegel) Head Start funding allocation modified, and money appropriated.

House Ways and Means Committee acted on the following bill:

- **HF 1** (Kotyza-Witthuhn) 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 re-referred without recommendation to House Jobs & Economic Development Division.***

House Jobs Committee acted on the following bill:

- **HF1** (Kotyza-Witthuhn) Early childhood; additional funding and opportunities for children ages birth to three created; programs and funding for prenatal care services, home visiting, early childhood education, and child care assistance governed; and money appropriated. ***This bill was re-referred to Education Finance.***

The House Health and Human Services Finance acted on the following bill:

- **HF3510** (Grossell) Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians; family and child services building construction funding provided, and money appropriated. ***This bill was re-referred to Capital Investment.***

The Senate Committee on Human Services Reform Finance and Policy acted on the following bills:

- **SF 3799** (Housley) Child care provider definition modification; child care services grants provisions modification. ***This bill was Laid over.***
- **SF 4070** (Kiffmeyer) Human services hearing procedures, crimes, background studies, and licensure requirements provisions modifications. ***This bill was Laid over.***
- **SF 3703** (Abeler) 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. ***This bill was Laid over.***

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 March 13, 2020** (this list does *not* include introduced last session, but they can be found on the bill tracker if they have received hearings). **New bills are highlighted in yellow.**

Overall Early Care and Education bills

- 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**)
- Early learning and child care provisions to require kindergarten readiness assessment and quality rating and improvement system evaluation modifications (**SF 3606-Nelson**)

Child Care /HHS bills

- Child care agencies-county agencies required to publish and distribute information about variances (**HF 3173-Wazlawik/SF 3197-Kiffmeyer**)
- Human services provisions modified regarding children and family services, community supports, older adult continuing care, and health care; criminal penalties established (**HF 3390-Moran**)
- Child care assistance funding priorities for eligible families modification and allocation of funds adjustment (**HF 3672-Noor/SF 3402-Hayden**)
- Family day care training hour requirements applicability modification (**HF 3709-Wazlawik/SF 3274-Kiffmeyer**)
- Human services hearing procedures, crimes, background studies, and licensure requirements provisions modified (**HF 3737-Pryor/HF 4070-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**)
- Group family day care child-adult capacity ratios and age distribution restrictions modification (**HF 3899-Grossell/SF 3292-Utke**)

- 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**)
- 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**)
- Ramsey County; day school payment for child care assistance overpayment funding provided, and money appropriated (**HF 4130-Pinto/SF 4216-Cohen**)
- Child care rate obsolete date removed (**HF 4178-Pinto/SF 4230-Abeler**)
- Child care assistance provider reimbursement rates modification (**HF 4374-Pinto/SF 3833-Housley**)
- Sudden unexpected infant death in licensed program risk reduction provisions modified (**HF 4426-Wazlawik/SF 4309-Marty**)
- Licensed child care centers supervision definition modification (**SF 4185-Abeler**)

E-12 Education bills

- 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/SF 4166-Abeler**)
- 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**)
- Early learning provision policy and technical changes made (**HF 3902-Pinto**)
- Grow Your Own teachers grant regional program created, and money appropriated (**HF 3965-Poston/SF 4189-Eichorn**)
- Grow Your Own teachers regional grant program created, and money appropriated (**HF 4054-Sandstede/SF 4188-Eichorn**)
- After-school community learning programs modified and program grants provided, and money appropriated (**HF 4127-Lee**)
- Grow Your Own teachers regional grant program created, and money appropriated (**HF 4142-Persell/SF 4190-Johnson**)
- Increase Teachers of Color Act in higher education strengthened, and student teacher grants and teacher shortage loan forgiveness provisions modified (**HF 4157-Noor/SF 4041-Abeler**)
- Early learning scholarship obsolete language repealed. (**HF 4246-Pinto**)
- Early learning scholarships appropriation (**HF 4375-Pinto/SF 3313-Nelson**)
- Early childhood funding framework linked to quality and improvement system removal; early learning scholarships eligibility criteria modifications (**SF 4240-Kiffmeyer**)

Family/Parenting support bills

- Pregnancy and parenting leave incumbency requirement modified (**HF 3073-Moran**)
- State Building Code: baby diaper changing station installation in public restrooms required (**HF 3222-Becker-Finn/SF 3686-Little**)

Bonding bills

- Wabasso; early childhood learning center funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated. (**HF 3112-Torkelson/SF 2930-Dahms**)
- 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 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)**
- Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians family and child services building funding provided, and money appropriated **(HF 4158-Becker-Finn)**

Other bills

- Birth to Age 8 Pilot Project Modified **(HF 3311 Richardson/SF 3061 Abeler)**
- 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)**
- Refundable tax credit for qualified child care professionals established **(HF 3896-Pryor/SF 3732-Anderson, P.)**
- Family, friend, and neighbor child care grant program funding established, and money appropriated **(HF 3939-Howard)**
- Head Start funding allocation modified, and money appropriated **(HF 3954-Koegel/SF 4251-Hoffman)**
- Legislative working group on early childhood programs establishment **(SF 3827-Wiger)**
- Quality public education for all children provided as a fundamental right, and constitutional amendment proposed **(HF 4160-Kresha)**
- In-home day care provider tax subtraction established **(HF 4388-Anderson)**
- Minnesota Initiative Foundations rural child care appropriation **(SF 4093-Nelson)**
- Local communities' grants for child care appropriation **(SF 4094-Weber)**

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. (MAY BE DONE VIRTUALLY)
- **Thursday, March 26:** Advocacy for Children Day- **POSTPONED**
- **Saturday, April 4 – Monday, April 13:** Legislative recess
- The Legislature must complete its work by **Monday, May 18, 2020**