



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE | February 27, 2018

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

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 Legislature reconvened on Tuesday, Feb. 20 for the second year of the two-year biennium. This is traditionally referred to as the “short session” and focuses less on the budget, which has already been set for the two-year budget cycle ending on June 30, 2018, and more on bonding proposals and some policy changes.

However, unfinished business from the last session on Legislative funding, the need to address federal conformity around the new Congressional Tax Bill, as well as what is now expected to be a slight budget surplus will lead to some new budget discussions. The updated budget forecast will be released on Feb. 28.

### COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

- The **House Education Finance** Committee heard updates on Feb. 22 from the MN Office of Higher Education and the MN Department of Education on initiatives funded last session, including the alternative teacher preparation program, the teacher loan forgiveness program, and the “grow your own” program.

### 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 Feb. 23, 2018:

## **CHILD CARE (DHS)**

- Correction order posting requirements for child care licensing modified (**HF 2778-Quam**)
- Background study provisions modified (**HF 2780-Quam**)

## **E-12 EDUCATION**

- Early education provisions modified, five regions for the voluntary prekindergarten program established, determination of the total amount of Pathway II scholarships authorized, and school readiness plus made permanent (**HF 2961-Davnie**)
- Teacher definition clarified (**SF 2537-Hoffman**)

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **February Budget Forecast** — Feb. 28 at 12:15 p.m.
- **Governor's State of the State** — March 14 at 7 p.m. (tentative)
- **Legislative Recess** — March 30 - April 8