



## Legislative Update: April 26, 2016 (Activity through Friday, April 22)

This update along with the Bill Tracker, will be posted each **Tuesday** (reflecting activity through the previous Friday) on the [Child Care Aware of Minnesota website](#). This week's update provides an overview of the **House and Senate Health and Human Services bills** (see the bill tracker for more details on each bill)

### **HOUSE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES OMNIBUS FINANCE BILL (HF 3467)**

**The following bills are included in whole or in part in the House bill:**

- Hands Off Child Care Act adopted (HF 436)
- Child care assistance subsidy restrictions modified (HF 2470)
- Maternal depression screening and treatment grant program established, and pilot projects (HF 3419)
- Child care program governing provisions modified, legislative task force on child care created (HF 3433)
- Positive support strategy rule temporary exemption provided (HF 3495)
- Income and child development in the first three years of life demonstration project allowed (HF 3781)

**More specifically, the bill does the following:**

- Repeals Minnesota statutes related to **child care provider unionization**
- **Modifies child care assistance program maximum rates** for child care providers who are located within the boundaries of a city located in two or more counties
- Establishes a grant program to provide culturally competent **screening and treatment for pre-and postpartum mood and anxiety disorders** in pregnant women and women who have given birth in the last 12 months
- Establishes pilot projects to provide **substance abuse disorder treatment and services** to pregnant and postpartum women
- Instructs the commissioner to study the cost for development of a website for use by child care providers that would provide a **single point of access** for statutes and rules relevant to child care, how to start a child care business, and completing various applications
- Requires a county licensor who has conducted a licensing inspection to provide the licensee with **written notification of potential licensing violations** noted during the visit prior to departing the home
- Establishes an eight-hour **preservice training requirement for county licensors**, increases training and oversight of county licensors, and instructs the commissioner to provide annual notices to licensors and supervisors on new laws relating to family child care
- Requires the Commissioner of Human Services to create a full-time position to act as a **liaison and advocate for child care providers**
- Creates a **Legislative task force** to evaluate issues related to affordability and accessibility to child care
- Requires the commissioner to review and evaluate the applicability of the **positive support strategies** and restrictive intervention rules to child care providers, and exempts child care providers from certain rules until this process is complete
- Provides necessary exemptions for income and assets if Minnesota is chosen for the **federal "income and child development in the first three years of life" demonstration project**

**SENATE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES OMNIBUS FINANCE ARTICLE**

**The following bills are included in whole or in part in the Senate bill:**

- Basic sliding fee child care assistance program forecasted, and child care assistance provider reimbursement rates modified (SF 2562)
- Northstar Care for Children basic monthly rate modified (SF 2641)
- Early preventive dental intervention and care for infants and toddlers pilot program developed, and money appropriated (SF 2824)
- A bill for an act relating to human services; appropriating money for crisis nursery services (SF 2984)
- Minnesota Initiative Foundations funding provided, and money appropriated (SF 3049)
- Income and child development in the first three years of life demonstration project allowed (SF 3394)
- Governor’s Health and Human Services supplemental bill (SF 3332)

**More specifically, the bill does the following:**

- Increases the **current child care assistance reimbursement rate by 7%**
- Amends the **child protection payment formula** to counties to retain the existing formula
- Requires the commissioner to develop a **statewide coordinated dental sealant program** to improve access to preventive dental services for school-age children and distribution of **dental screening promotional** materials in 5 high needs communities
- Allocates funds to the **Minneapolis Crisis Nursery** to continue efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect, and to develop practices that can be shared with organizations around the state
- Allocates funds to the **Minnesota Initiative Foundations** to increase access to affordable child care in greater Minnesota
- **Transfers the responsibility** to perform **background studies** on child care and legal nonlicensed child care providers **from the county to DHS**
- Requires the commissioner to work with community stakeholders to carry out a study identifying **barriers, challenges, successes affecting initiation, duration and exclusivity of breastfeeding**
- Provides necessary exemptions for income and assets if Minnesota is chosen for the **federal “income and child development in the first three years of life” demonstration project**
- Increases the **medical assistance payment** rates for prenatal and postpartum follow up **home visits** provided by public health nurses using evidence based models
- Requires the Department of Human Services to report on the **presence and cost of liability insurance** in Licensed Family Child Care homes *(added in Finance Committee)*

| <b>FUNDING ITEM (in \$1,000’s)</b>                       | <b>GOVERNOR</b> | <b>HOUSE</b> | <b>SENATE</b>   |
|--|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| <b>County border child care rates change</b>             | \$0             | \$54         | \$0             |
| <b>Child Care task force and other provisions</b>        | \$0             | \$526        | \$0             |
| <b>Child Care Development Block Grant alignment</b>      | \$8,001         | \$0          | \$0             |
| <b>Increasing Child Care Assistance rates</b>            | \$20,279        | \$0          | \$8,118         |
| <b>Family Home Visiting-pregnant and parenting teens</b> | \$10,731        | \$0          | \$0             |
| <b>Northstar Reimbursement Rate increase</b>             | \$0             | \$0          | \$8,969         |
| <b>MA home visiting reimbursement rates</b>              | \$186           | \$0          | \$186           |
| <b>Minneapolis Crisis Nursery appropriation</b>          | \$0             | \$0          | \$60            |
| <b>Minnesota Initiative Foundations appropriation</b>    | \$0             | \$0          | \$1,500         |
| <b>Dental Sealant program</b>                            | \$0             | \$0          | \$517           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>\$39,197</b> | <b>\$580</b> | <b>\$19,290</b> |