



Legislative Update: May 17, 2016 (Activity through Friday, May 13)

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](http://www.childcareawaremn.org).

The primary activity was the start of the work by the Conference Committee on the supplemental budget bill (HF 2749). The initial meetings consisted of walking through the budget spreadsheets and the “side by sides” which provide a comparison of language in the House and Senate bills. Some additional testimony was also taken- primarily from Department staff who outlined the Governor’s proposals/positions.

Hopefully we will see a final bill reflecting agreements on these items prior to the **constitutional deadline of Monday, May 23**. In the meantime, here is a combined/comprehensive summary of what is “in play”:

EDUCATION FUNDING & LANGUAGE ITEMS (2017)	GOVERNOR	HOUSE	SENATE
Voluntary Pre-K Program	\$25 million	\$0	\$18 million
Reading Corps	\$0	\$1.5 million	\$3 million
Full Service Community Schools	\$2 million	\$0	\$2.2 million
Parent Aware	\$0	\$2 million	\$500,000
Parent-Child Home	\$0	\$2 million	\$1 million
Northside Achievement Zone	\$0	\$0	\$10,000
St. Paul Promise Neighborhood	\$0	\$0	\$10,000
St. Cloud Early Learning Pilot	\$0	\$430,000	\$0
Help Me Grow	\$1 million	\$0	\$1 million
MN Learning Resource Center: A Chance to Grow	\$0	\$0	\$300,000
After School Community Learning Grants	\$0	\$0	\$500,000
Children’s Cabinet: Homeless Children Supports	\$0	\$0	\$200,000
ECFE Home Visiting Levy/Revenue Change	\$0	\$0	\$1.18 million
Early Learning Program coordination		X	
Charter school participation in School Readiness		X	
Report on Early Childhood Program Provider Demographics		X	
Early Learning Scholarship language changes		X	X
Use of school funds for Pre-K facility costs			X
HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING & LANGUAGE ITEMS (2017)			
Online early childhood teacher prep. (MNSCU)			\$100,000
Graduate students eligible for child care grants		X	X
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUNDING & LANGAUGE (2017)			
Creation of a child care start-up manual		\$100,000	
Start-up grants for child care in Greater MN		\$500,000	
YWCA job training/early childhood pathway		\$500,000	\$2.1 million
STATE GOVERNMENT FUNDING & LANGUAGE ITEMS (2017)			
Capitol complex child care facility design	\$300,000		\$300,000
HHS FUNDING & LANGUAGE ITEMS (2017)	GOVERNOR	HOUSE	SENATE
County border child care rates change	\$0	\$54,000	\$0
Child Care task force and other provisions	\$0	\$526,000	\$0
Increasing Child Care Assistance rates	\$20.3 million	\$0	\$8.1 million

MA home visiting reimbursement rates	\$186,000	\$0	\$186,000
Minneapolis Crisis Nursery appropriation	\$0	\$0	\$60,000
Minnesota Initiative Foundations appropriation	\$0	\$0	\$1.5 million
Early Dental Prevention Incentive pilot	\$0	\$0	\$517,000
Clinical Lactation Services licensure			\$174,000
Shift of background checks from county to state			X
Changes to positive supports training for child care		X	
Child Care as an allowable service under child protection			X
Income and asset exclusion for federal early ed. Pilot		X	X
Child Care provider liability insurance report			X
“Hand off child care” repeal of union language		X	
Grant Program-screening and treatment for pre- and postpartum mood and anxiety disorders		X	
Pilot-treatment for pregnant & postpartum women with substance abuse disorder		X	

TAX BILLS

The **Senate Tax bill** was heard in committee and passed the Senate floor on **May 11 on a vote of 37-30**.

The bill contains two provisions that could have impacts on families with young children:

- **Working Family Tax Credit:** Modifies the percentage of earned income on which the credit is calculated so that claimants at the lowest income levels would be eligible for larger credit amounts and the credit would extend to higher income levels. In addition, these levels are adjusted annually for inflation.
- **Family and Medical leave:** Creates an unpaid 12-week family care leave subject to the same requirements that exist for state mandated unpaid pregnancy and bonding leave. The bill also establishes an insurance benefit program for employees that would offer pregnancy benefits, bonding benefits, and family care benefits.

There has not yet been an omnibus Tax Bill heard in the **House** this session.

OTHER BILLS

The following bill was heard on the Senate floor, and passed on a vote of 45-13:

- Child care legislative task force created, and report to the governor required (**SF 3208**): *The House companion to this bill was included in the House Omnibus HHS bill.*

The following bills have had a second reading and continue to await floor action:

- Human services data provisions modifications (**SF 1434**).
- Maternal depression screening and treatment grant program established, and pilot projects to provide treatment for pregnant and postpartum women with substance use disorders established (**SF 3419**): *Also included in the House Omnibus HHS bill.*