



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE Pre-session 2016

Welcome to the Child Care Aware Legislative Update. This narrative update, along with our Bill Tracker, will be posted each **Tuesday** (for activity through the previous Friday) on our website at: <http://childcareawaremn.org/bill-tracker-2016>

The 2016 Legislative session will kick off on **Tuesday, March 8** but there has already been a lot of activity related to the early care and education field that will have an impact on the session's activities:

### ADMINISTRATIVE/DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

- **The Minnesota Department of Human Services** hosted a public hearing in December to review the draft of their Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) plan, which must be submitted to the Federal Administration for Children and Families. There will likely be several items from this plan that will need Legislative action in 2016 in order to be in compliance with the newly congressionally reauthorized Child Care and Development Block Grant
- **The Minnesota Department of Education** hosted regional community listening sessions to learn how the department can be more effective in linking policies, programs, and practices to ensure every child in Minnesota has a high-quality early education. Over 600 people attended these sessions in person and over 2,500 people filled out the corresponding survey. The results focused heavily on workforce issues, transportation, mental health, Pre-K alignment and transitions, as well as the need for a mixed delivery system for Pre-K.

### LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

- A **Select Committee on Child Care** was formed in the House, and will work with providers and parents to facilitate solutions for more affordable child care choices for Minnesota families. So far, the committee has held or scheduled pre-session hearings in Brainerd, Crookston, Faribault, Willmar, Worthington, and Waite Park.

**Pre-session Legislative hearings** took place on the following dates with these topics:

- Senate Education Committee, **February 2:** Early Learning Scholarship evaluation
- Senate Education Committee, **February 16:** Discussion of World's Best Workforce
- Senate Education & Senate Health and Human Services Committees, **February 23:** Services for children from birth to age 5 across both committees
- Legislative Task Force on Child Protection, **February 25**
- Senate Education Committee, **February 29:** Priorities from Education Advocates



## **BILLS INTRODUCED**

House members had the opportunity to “pre-file” bills on January 29, and the following bills related to Early Care and Education were introduced at that time:

### **Early Care and Education programs/services**

- Full service community school funding increased (HF 2391)
- Child Care Assistance modified (HF 2402)
- Pre-K children-deaf and hard of hearing Special Education services and enrollment (HF 2411)
- Pre-Kindergarten through grade 12 pupil transportation funding provided (HF 2434)
- Minnesota Reading Corps funding increased (HF 2449)
- Child Care Assistance subsidy restrictions modified (HF 2470)
- Head Start programs waiting lists funding increased (HF 2581)
- Residential day care facilities for children required to be in residence of provider (HF 2498)

We will keep you updated on their progress through the bill tracker, which is posted on the Child Care Aware of Minnesota website at: <http://childcareawaremn.org/bill-tracker-2016>

If you have questions or additions to recommend to the bill tracker, please contact Ann McCully at: [annm@childcareawaremn.org](mailto:annm@childcareawaremn.org)

## **BUDGET FORECAST RELEASED**

On Friday, February 26, the state’s February forecast was released. [Minnesota Management & Budget’s](#) latest projection estimates lawmakers will have a **\$900 million budget surplus** for 2016-17 to work with, down from an estimated \$1.2 billion forecast last December. The projected surplus for the 2018-19 biennium also shrank, down to roughly \$1.2 billion from a previously-projected \$2 billion.

## **UPCOMING DATES**

- **Tuesday, March 8 at noon:** Legislative session begins
- **Wednesday, March 9 at 7:00 p.m.:** Governor’s State of the State address
- **Tuesday, March 15:** Governor’s supplemental budget is released
- **Friday, March 25 - Tuesday, March 29 at noon:** Legislative Recess

## **COMMITTEE DEADLINES**

- **Friday, April 1:** Committees must act favorably on bills in the house of origin;
- **Friday, April 8:** Committees must act favorably on bills, or companion bills, that met the first deadline in the other house
- **Friday, April 21:** Committees must act favorably on major appropriation and finance bills.
- **Friday, April 22 - Monday, April 25 at 8:00 a.m.:** Legislative Recess
- **Monday, May 23:** By law, legislators must adjourn this session