



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE / March 20, 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

On Wednesday, March 14, Governor Dayton gave his final State of the State address, signaling areas of focus for the last year of his administration. **On Friday, March 16**, he released his [proposed supplemental budget](#). This proposal will now be under consideration as potential budget bills are crafted. Elements related to early childhood include the following:

EDUCATION

- **Voluntary Pre-K** – The proposal allocates **\$204,000** for additional administrative capability in 2019, and an additional **\$57 million** in the 2020-21 biennium to sustain and extend the program.
- **Early Learning Scholarships** – The proposal expands scholarships to infants and toddlers and extends use of existing funds across 27 months instead of 24 months but recommends no additional funding.
- **Help me Grow** – The proposal allocates **\$1.5 million** in 2019 and an additional **\$3 million** for the 2020-21 biennium.
- **Head Start Background Checks** – The proposal allocates **\$51,000** in 2019 and an additional **\$16,000** for the 2020-21 biennium.

HUMAN SERVICES

- **Child Care Assistance** – The proposal adds **\$2.5 million** in 2019 and an additional **\$15 million** in the 2020-21 biennium to expediate applications from homeless families and provide 12 months of coverage.

TAXES

- **Working Family Tax Credit** – The proposal increases the credit at the lowest income levels, expands the credit to include parents ages 21-24, and increases the maximum credit for those with three or more children.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

- **House Subcommittee on Child Care Access and Affordability** heard **HF 3403** (modifications to child care licensing), **HF 3629** (child care program background studies modified), and **HF 3246** (childhood trauma-informed policies)
- **House Health and Human Services Reform Committee** heard **HF 2780 and HF 3573** (revising provider fingerprint checks), **HF 3605** (DEED grants to communities to address child care shortages), and **HF 3197** (MFIP parenting skills assessment/training)
- **House Education Innovation Committee** heard **HF 1420** (World's Best Workforce amendments)
- **House Property Tax and Local Government Committee** heard **HF 2834** (child care facility tax exemption)
- **Senate E-12 Policy Committee** heard **SF 3012** (Education Partnership Program modification)
- **Senate Judiciary and Public Finance Committee** heard **SF 2683** (provider background check modifications)

COMMITTEE DEADLINES

- **Thursday, March 22:** Committees must act favorably on bills in the house of origin.
- **Friday, March 29:** Committees must act favorably on bills, or companion bills, that met the first deadline in the other house.
- **Friday, April 20:** Committees must act favorably on major appropriation and finance bills.

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 9, 2018** (**new bills are highlighted in yellow**):

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- Correction order posting requirements for child care licensing modified (**HF 2778 /SF 3507-Nelson**)
- Background study provisions modified (**HF 2780-Quam**)
- Correction order posting requirements for child care licensing modified (**HF 3015-Quam/SF 3508-Nelson**)
- MFIP modified to require an assessment of need for parenting skills training (**HF 3197-Runbeck**)
- Child care provisions related to homeless families modified (**HF 3205-Peterson/SF 2930-Lourey**)
- Task force on childhood trauma-informed policy and practices established, and report required (**HF 3246-Moran/SF 3388-Hayden**)
- Positive support strategies training rule child care providers exemption (**HF 3253-Franson/SF 2685-Lang**)
- Human services background study requirements modifications; national criminal history record check (**SF 2683-Kiffmeyer**)
- Northstar Care for Children benefits for children under age six modification (**HF 3289-Pierson/SF 2910-Wiklund**)
- Child care licensing provisions modified (**HF 3403-Peterson/SF 3310-Weber**)
- Northstar Care for Children agreement timeline modification (**HF 3457-Loeffler/SF 2967-Lourey**)
- Family child care and legal nonlicensed child care program background study requirements modified (**HF 3573-Albright**)

- Health commissioner required to distribute grants to address disparities in prenatal care access and utilization, and money appropriated **(HF 3574-Pinto/SF 3307-Wiklund)**
- Local community grants to increase child care providers **(HF 3605-Baker/SF 3316-Utke)**
- Child care program background study fees modified **(HF 3629-Bliss)**
- Household pets that are allowed in family child care homes modified **(HF 3663-Haley/SF 3568-Goggin)**
- Child Care Regulation Advisory Group established **(HF 3704-Layman)**
- Child care provisions related to families experiencing homelessness modified **(HF 3778-Peterson)**
- Human Services fraud prevention and program integrity provisions modifications **(HF 3781-Gruenhagen/SF 3174-Utke)**
- Counted income for eligibility determinations for public assistance and child care programs clarified **(HF 3821-Scott/SF 3553-Benson)**
- Child Care Assistance Program provisions modified, and basic sliding fee Child Care Assistance Program forecasted **(HF 3894-Loeffler)**
- Basic sliding fee Child Care Assistance Program forecasted, child care assistance provider reimbursement rates modified **(HF 3897-Flanagan/SF 3517-Franzen)**

E-12 EDUCATION

- Community education revenue program funding increased, and minimum population guarantee increased **(HF 625-Youakim)** – *Introduced in 2017*
- World's Best Workforce performance measures and reports modified **(HF 1420-Erickson)** – *introduced in 2017*
- Early education provisions modified, five regions for the voluntary pre-kindergarten program established, determination of the total amount of Pathway II scholarships authorized, and school readiness plus made permanent **(HF 2961-Davnie/SF 2812-Pappas)**
- World's Best Workforce requirements modified **(HF 3071-Fischer/SF 2639-Wiger)**
- Teacher's master's degree tax credit eligibility modified **(HF 3093-Urdahl/SF 3468-Abeler)**
- Grow Your Own pathways to teacher licensure program funding increased, and money appropriated **(HF 3206-Fenton/SF 3340-Pappas)**
- MDE Policy Bill **(HF 3315-Erickson/SF 3086-Pratt)**
- Early Learning Scholarship program child eligibility and administration modification **(HF 3328-Kresha/SF 3013-Eichorn)**
- Education partnership program modification and future grant priority establishment **(HF 3354-Haley/SF 3012-Pratt)**
- Teacher definition clarified **(HF 3590-Lee/SF 2537-Hoffman)**
- Increase Teachers of Color Act strengthened **(HF 3594-Koznick/SF 3263-Anderson, P.)**
- Universal voluntary pre-kindergarten funded **(HF 3658-Wagenius/SF 3626-Dibble)**
- Voluntary pre-kindergarten participants required to be served through a mixed delivery of services **(HF 3870-Peterson/SF 3516-Nelson)**

HIGHER EDUCATION

- Higher Education policy provisions modifications **(HF 3900-Nornes/SF 3327-Fischbach)**

TAXES/CAPITAL INVESTMENT

- Child Care Facilities Property Tax Exemption provided **(HF 2834-Gruenhagen/SF 2874-Newman)**
- Refundable tax credit for qualified child care expenses, professionals, and providers **(HF 3853-Loon/SF 3515-Franzen)**
- Greater Minnesota child care facility capital grant program bond issue and appropriation **(SF 3578-Eken)**

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Legislative Recess** – March 30-April 8