



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE | March 6, 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 biggest news this week was the Wednesday, Feb. 28 release of the state's Budget and Economic Forecast. This will shape the expectation and tone of any potential spending bills for the remainder of the session.

The Forecast shows a **\$329 million surplus** for the current budget cycle (through June 30, 2019) and a **\$313 million surplus** for FY 2020-21, which are both improvements over the previous projections from November. The forecast also predicts slightly stronger economic growth in the short term, due in part to the federal tax bill; however, that boost is projected to be followed by slower growth.

While this does mean additional funds could be allocated for the remainder of this biennium, the Governor has described them as modest, and stated:

*"Our Department of Revenue and Minnesota Management and Budget will spend the next several days refining their preliminary tax and spending estimates, based on this new forecast. I will then use their revised estimates to prepare my own Supplemental Budget Request, which I expect to issue on March 15th. Like the Legislature, I will have to compress what I would like to do into what I believe we can do, given these limiting fiscal realities."*

### SESSION DEADLINES ANNOUNCED

These deadlines dictate when bills that have been introduced must be heard to continue in the Legislative process:

- **Friday, 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.

## COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

- **House Subcommittee on Child Care Access and Affordability** – held an informational hearing
- **Senate E-12 Finance Committee** – reviewed the “Every Child Succeeds Act” (ESSA) funding, including Pre-K measures
- **Senate Health and Human Services Finance Committee** – They heard **SF 2685** (positive supports training exemption), which was laid over. They also heard **SF 2683** (background check revisions), which was amended and referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety Finance and Policy.
- **House Education Innovation Policy Committee** – Had an update from the Minnesota Department of Education on several Legislative reports, including the “World’s Best Workforce” report which focuses on school readiness
- **House Education Finance** – reviewed the “Every Child Succeeds Act” (ESSA) funding, including Pre-K measures

## 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 2, 2018 (new bills are highlighted in yellow)**:

### HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- Correction order posting requirements for child care licensing modified (**HF 2778 & HF 3015-Quam**)
- Background study provisions modified (**HF 2780-Quam**)
- Child care facilities property tax exemption provided (**HF 2834-Gruenhagen/SF 2874-Newman**)
- 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**)
- Task force on childhood trauma-informed policy and practices established, and report required (**HF 3246-Moran**)
- 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**)

### 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/SF 2812-Pappas**)
- Teacher definition clarified (**SF 2537-Hoffman**)
- World's best workforce requirements modified (**HF 3071-Fischer/SF 2639/-Wiger**)
- Teacher's master's degree tax credit eligibility modified (**HF 3093-Urdahl**)
- Grow Your Own pathways to teacher licensure program funding increased, and money appropriated (**HF 3206-Fenton**)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **February Budget Forecast** – Feb. 28 at 12:15 p.m.
- **Governor’s State of the State** – March 14 at 7:00 p.m.
- **Governor’s Supplemental Budget request released** – March 15

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