



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE / April 24, 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

With a final deadline of April 20, committees focused on completing all omnibus finance bills. This update highlights the **Education and Health and Human Services omnibus bills** at the end of the committee process. These bills will have additional stops in the Ways and Means (House) and Finance (Senate) Committees in the coming week, and then will be heard on the floor of the House and Senate where there may be more amendments.

Next week we will cover the progress on these bills, as well as any other omnibus bills with early care and education and school age care elements, including higher education, jobs, and taxes.

OMNIBUS BILLS

House-Omnibus K-12 Education Bill (HF 4328- Loon)

- Makes the following changes to the **Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten and School Readiness program** language:
 - Adds a requirement to use age-appropriate screening tools
 - Adds a fifth funding pool so that both Minneapolis and St. Paul will receive a share of funds
 - Removes the term “licensed” from teacher under the School Readiness Plus program, and instead aligns the teacher requirement to what is currently required under the Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten program and existing School Readiness statute
- Makes the following changes to the **Early Learning Scholarship** language:
 - Further defines eligibility for children who are homeless or in need of protective services, and establishes that parents of children in these situations do not need to provide income verification
 - Clarifies that the required screening must take place no later than 90 days after a child’s third birthday

- Requires the implementation of the **School Readiness Assessment**
- **Adds access to background checks** by the Department of Human Services for tribal and Head Start programs
- Awards **\$80,000** to the United Way of Central Minnesota for their **Promise Neighborhood** and adds language to prioritize future funding for past recipients
- Extends the **Grow Your Own New Teacher** program to charter schools

BILLS INCLUDED:

- Promise Neighborhood of Central Minnesota programming expansion grant authorized, report required, and money appropriated (**HF 1708-Knoblach**)
- World's best workforce performance measures and reports modified (**HF 1420-Erickson**)
- Grow Your Own pathways to teacher licensure program funding increased, and money appropriated (**HF 3206-Fenton**)
- MDE Policy Bill (**HF 3315-Erickson**)
- Education partnership program modification and future grant priority establishment (**HF 3354-Haley**)

Senate Omnibus Education E-12 Supplemental Appropriations Bill (SF 3928-Nelson)

- Makes the following changes to the **Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten and School Readiness** program language:
 - Adds a requirement to use age-appropriate screening tools
 - Requires that for fiscal year 2020 and later, any district or charter school **servicing more children** than in fiscal year 2019 **must contract with a Parent Aware Three- or Four-Star Rated program** operated by a charter school, Head Start, child care center, licensed family child care, or community-based organization for **at least 40 percent** of the spaces for the additional eligible children
 - Includes a provision that the commissioner **may waive the mixed-delivery requirements** for an otherwise qualified applicant that provides documented evidence that the school district or charter school was unable to provide a mixed-delivery program because of the unavailability of providers willing to contract with the school district or charter school, or other factors beyond their control.
 - **For fiscal year 2020 and later**, at least 40 percent of the number of program participants served by the Voluntary Pre-K program statewide, **in excess of the current 3,160 participants**, must be served through a mixed delivery of services
- Expands language for **American Indian Teacher grants** to include students progressing toward educational goals in any area of teacher licensure, including an associate of arts, bachelor's, master's, or doctorate in early childhood family education or prekindergarten licensure, or any educational program that provides services to American Indian students in prekindergarten through grade 12
- Extends the **Grow Your Own New Teacher** program to charter schools, as well as including new uses such as financial assistance and mentoring, and defines that it must be used where more than 30 percent of a school district's or charter school's students are students of color or American Indian students

BILLS INCLUDED

- Grow Your Own pathways to teacher licensure program funding increased (**SF 3340-Pappas**)
- Voluntary prekindergarten participants served through a mixed delivery of services (**SF 3516- Nelson**)

House Omnibus Health and Human Services Financing Bill (HF 3138-Dean)

- Includes additional language required by the **Child Care and Development Block Grant** to expediate applications and services for homeless families and makes modifications to the Transition Year and Portability Pool funds
- Changes the timing of the **Child Care Market Rate Survey** from once every two years to once every three years
- Ties the next CCAP rate increase to the 25th percentile of the **2016 Market Rate Survey** and establishes how this will be prioritized for distribution to counties
- Modifies family and group family child care **training requirements** so that approved trainers on a required topic area can count the hours spent conducting that training toward their annual child care training requirement
- Removes the requirement for licensed child care providers **to post correction orders**; does not remove the requirement to post conditional licenses
- Requires the Commissioner of Human Services to establish and appoint a task force on **trauma-informed policy and practice** and reduce children's exposure to ACEs - **allocates \$55,000 for this purpose**
- Allocates **\$613,000** for **prenatal disparity grants** to decrease racial and ethnic disparities in access to and utilization of high-quality prenatal care

BILLS INCLUDED

- Health Commissioner required to distribute grants to address disparities in prenatal care access (**HF 3574-Pinto**)
- Child care provisions related to families experiencing homelessness modified (**HF 3778-Peterson**)
- Family and group family child care training requirements modified (**HF 4094-Franson**)

Senate Human Services Reform Omnibus Bill (SF 3937-Abeler)

- Includes additional language required by the **Child Care and Development Block Grant** related to license-exempt and legally nonlicensed program oversight, expedited applications, and services for homeless families, modifications to the Transition Year and Portability Pool funds
- Clarifies that if a family has one child with a child care authorization and the child turns 13 years of age or the child has a disability and turns 15 years of age, the family remains **eligible until the redetermination**
- Changes timing of the **Child Care Market Rate Survey** from once every two years to every three years, and calls for an initial update in February 2019, not to exceed the 25th percentile of the most recent Market Rate Survey
- Requires CCAP subsidy rate increases after FY 2022 to be tied to available federal CCDF funds, and allows for reimbursement at a lower percentage than 25% of the market rate to stay within that budget
- Directs the commissioner to **prioritize federal CCDF quality funds** to increase availability of training and business planning assistance for child care providers
- Removes the requirement for licensed child care providers **to post correction orders**; does not remove the requirement to post conditional licenses

BILLS INCLUDED

- Correction order posting requirements for child care licensing modified (**SF 3508-Nelson**)
- Child Care provisions related to families experiencing homelessness modified (**SF 3915-Abeler**)

BILLS AWAITING VOTES ON THE FLOOR

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- Correction order posting requirements for child care licensing modified (**HF 3015-Quam/SF 3508-Nelson**)
- Background study provisions modified (**SF 3731-Nelson**)
- Positive support strategies training rule child care providers exemption (**HF 3253-Franson/SF 2685-Lang**)
- MDE Policy Bill (**SF 3086-Pratt**)
- Child care licensing provisions modified (**HF 3403-Peterson/SF 3310-Weber**)
- Human services background study requirements modifications; national criminal history record check (**HF 4249-Albright/SF 2683-Kiffmeyer**)

HIGHER EDUCATION

- Higher education policy provisions modifications (**SF 3327-Fischbach**)

The status of all other bills introduced to date can be found on [the Child Care Aware of Minnesota website](#).