



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE / May 1, 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

Committee work this week focused on completing the omnibus bill process – sending bills through the Ways and Means (House) and Finance (Senate) committees for any additional amendments and final approval, and onto the House and Senate Floor.

In the **Senate**, all the omnibus bills were rolled into an **Omnibus Supplemental Budget Bill**, which was heard and passed the Senate on Thursday, April 26 by a **vote of 34 - 31**.

In the House, **The Education and Higher Education omnibus bills** were combined and passed the House on Thursday, April 26 by a **vote of 94 - 29**.

The update below includes changes to previously reported omnibus bills and information about all early care and education and school-age care elements in the House Tax Bill, and the Higher Education and Jobs portions in the House and Senate omnibus bills.

### NEXT STEPS

The House **Omnibus Tax Bill (HF 4385)** and the House **Omnibus Health and Human Services Bill (HF3138)** will be moving to the floor on **Monday, April 30 and Tuesday April 1**. The remaining Omnibus bills (including the Employment, Economic, and Jobs Bill) were rolled into a new House **Omnibus Finance Bill (HF 4099)** and should also be heard on the House floor this week. Once these bills have passed each body, conference committee(s) will begin the process to bring the bills into agreement. The Senate Tax Bill and the House and Senate Capital Improvement (Bonding) bills will likely be released in the coming week as well.

## OMNIBUS BILL STATUS

### HOUSE OMNIBUS EDUCATION FINANCE BILL (HF 4328- Loon) - **Passed House Floor 94-29**

- Makes the following changes to the **Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten and School Readiness** program language:
  - 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
  - Incorporates the option of continuing School Readiness Plus into the language about continuing the Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten program, limiting both to 7,160 slots
  - 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 required screening must take place no later than 90 days after a child’s third birthday
- Requires 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
- Amends the **state’s P-20 Council statute** to include more focus on child well-being, early childhood development, and investments in young children and families
- Adds **\$2 million for Full-Service Community Schools** in fiscal year 2020 and beyond, earmarked for school support staff including mental health professionals, licensed school counselors, licensed school psychologists, licensed school nurses, and licensed alcohol and chemical dependency counselors.

### 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**)
- Higher Education policy provision modifications (**HF 3900-Nornes**)

### HOUSE OMNIBUS HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, AND TRANSPORTATION AND FINANCE BILL (HF 3138-Dean) – **Scheduled for a Floor vote on 5/1/18**

- Includes additional language required by the **Child Care and Development Block Grant** to expediate applications and services for homeless families and make 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 25<sup>th</sup> percentile of the **2016 Market Rate survey** and establishes how this will be prioritized for distribution to counties
- Modifies families and group family child care **training requirements** so that approved trainers on a required topic area can count the hours spent conducting the 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 **pre-natal 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**)

#### HOUSE OMNIBUS TAX BILL (HF 4385-Davids) – **Scheduled for a Floor vote on 4/30/18**

- Expands the tax credit for attaining a master's degree in teacher's licensure field to include early childhood special education

#### BILLS INCLUDED

- Teacher's master's degree tax credit eligibility modified (**HF 3093-Urdahl**)

#### HOUSE OMNIBUS EMPLOYMENT, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENERGY BILL (HF 4289) – **Incorporates HF 4099**

- Allocates \$750,000 in fiscal year 2019 for grants to local communities to increase the supply of quality child care providers in order to support economic development
- Specifies that each grant recipient in fiscal year 2019 must target at least half of their grant funding to child care providers who have not previously received funding under this program

#### BILLS INCLUDED

- Local community grants to increase child care providers authorized (**HF 3605-Baker**)

#### SENATE OMNIBUS SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET BILL (SF 3656) – **Passed Senate Floor 34 - 31**

- 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%** 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% of the school district's or charter school's students served are students of color or American Indian students
- Includes additional language required by the **Child Care and Development Block Grant** related to 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 once every three years, and calls for an initial update in February, 2019, not to exceed the 25<sup>th</sup> 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 in order 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
- Amends the **state’s P-20 Council statute** to include more focus on child well-being, early childhood development, and investments in young children and families

#### **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**)
- 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**)
- Higher Education policy provision modifications (**HF 3900-Nornes**)

#### **BILLS THAT ARE AWAITING VOTES ON THE FLOOR:**

##### **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

- Correction order posting requirements for child care licensing modified (**HF3015-Quam/SF3508-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](#).