



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE / May 8, 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

This week saw the final floor action on omnibus bills, including the **House Tax Bill** (which passed on a vote of 90-38), **House Omnibus Health and Human Services Bill** (which passed 82-43), the **House Omnibus Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources, Job Growth and Energy Affordability, and State Government Finance Bill** (which passed on a vote of 34-31), and the **Senate Tax Bill** (which passed 34-32).

Details about these bills, and **any amendments added on the House or Senate Floor**, are summarized below.

There was a joint Senate Education Policy and Finance Committee hearing on **April 30** to review the recently released [Office of the Legislative Auditor report](#). This report examined some key questions about early childhood programs in Minnesota, and issued the following findings:

- The array of early childhood programs is **complex and fragmented**, due in part to differences in the way programs are funded and variation in their eligibility and other requirements.
- Complexities in certain programs **create burdens for families**, which may result in lower access to needed services. They also create difficulties for program providers.
- It is not possible to determine the extent of potential duplication among program funding or services. One reason is the **lack of a unique number to identify children** enrolled in multiple programs overseen by different agencies. Missing and incomplete data also inhibit assessing duplication.
- Some children received services funded by more than one program, but this **does not necessarily indicate duplicative services**.
- The **lack of important data** prevents measuring program effectiveness statewide. State law gives priority to meeting goals on school readiness, but the number of children prepared for school is unknown.
- State and federal laws **limit state agencies' ability to share data** even when they oversee related programs.

NEXT STEPS

One or more **Conference Committees** will begin the process of agreeing on common language for each of the House and Senate Omnibus bills so that a final bill can be presented for a vote on each floor. This process also includes negotiations with the governor's office.

While the conference committee process is underway, **several stand-alone bills** (also listed below) will be considered on the House and Senate floor and may result in additional conference committees or (if the bills include the same content) get sent to the governor for consideration.

OMNIBUS BILL STATUS

HOUSE OMNIBUS EDUCATION FINANCE BILL (HF 4328-Loon) - **Passed House Floor 94-29 on April 26**

- 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
 - Includes the option of continuing the School Readiness Plus and Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten program (for a total 7,160 slots) but allows parents to be informed about/use the funding for this slot as an Early Learning Scholarship if they want to move to a new program that is not school-based/school-funded.
- 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) – Passed House Floor 82-43 on May 1

- 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 25th 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
- Adds the option of **Targeted home visiting** to the current language regarding evidence-based home visiting and directs the Department of Health to allocate up to 25% of the grant funds not yet awarded to other targeted home visiting programs.
- Modifies the emergency preparedness plans for Child Care Centers and Licensed Family Child Care homes so that the **policy dealing with intruders** is required to exist but is not made public or shared with families.
- **Removes DHS rule-making authority** related to family child care, group family child care, or child care centers unless required expressly by state law.

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) – Passed House Floor 90-38 on April 30

- 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 AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES, JOB GROWTH AND ENERGY AFFORDABILITY, AND STATE GOVERNMENT FINANCE BILL (HF 4289) – Passed House Floor 34-31 on May 3

- Allocates \$750,000 in fiscal year 2019 for grants to local communities to increase the supply of quality child care providers 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 on April 26**

- 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 **serving 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 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 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**)

SENATE OMNIBUS TAX BILL (SF 3982) – **Passed the Senate Floor 34-32 on May 3**

- No early care and education or school-age provisions included in the bill

STATUS OF BILLS AWAITING VOTES ON THE FLOOR

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- Correction order posting requirements for child care licensing modified (HF3015-Quam/SF3508-Nelson) – **HF 3015 is scheduled to be heard on the House Floor on Monday, May 7**
- 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) – **HF 3403 is scheduled to be heard on the House floor on Monday, May 7**
- Human services background study requirements modifications; national criminal history record check (HF 4249-Albright/SF 2683-Kiffmeyer)

EDUCATION

- Prekindergarten through grade 12 education provided, including general education, education excellence, teachers, facilities and technology, nutrition, early childhood and family support, and self-sufficiency and lifelong learning (HF 3315-Erickson/SF 3086-Pratt)-**SF 3086 passed Senate Floor 42-25 on May 2**

HIGHER EDUCATION

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

DEADLINES

The constitutional deadline for adjournment is Monday, May 21 at midnight.

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