



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE / May 15, 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

Work began this week to address the differences in the various omnibus bills in the House and Senate (see pages 2-3 for an overview of the specific provisions included in these bills).

A **conference committee** was formed to reach agreements on all of the omnibus bills except the Tax and Capital Investment (Bonding) bills. The members of this conference committee are:

- SENATE CONFEREES: **Rosen**; Benson; Newman; Limmer; Kiffmeyer
- HOUSE CONFEREES: **Knoblach**; Garofalo; Loon; Pelowski Jr.; Torkelson

On **Monday, May 7** several senators held a press conference to highlight a package of child care bills that were slated to be heard on the floor that day (see page 4). These bills will now move on to floor votes in the House.

On **Tuesday, May 8** the Senate Agriculture, Rural Development, and Housing Finance Committee held a hearing to explore the impact on rural communities due to lack of child care. At the end of this hearing, the Chair announced the formation of a task force that will meet during the interim to continue to discuss this issue. Task force members include: **Weber**, Eken, Hawj, Kiffmeyer, Lang, Goggin, Tomassoni, and Wiklund.

On **Wednesday, May 9** the **Senate Capital Investment** (bonding) bill was released, but like the House bill, it did not include any early care and education or school-age care funding.

NEXT STEPS

This final full week of the session will focus on conference committee work to finalize all bills prior to **the constitutional deadline for adjournment on Monday, May 21 at midnight.**

OMNIBUS BILL STATUS

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES PROVISIONS IN *BOTH* BILLS:

- 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
- Removes the requirement for licensed child care providers **to post correction orders**; does not remove the requirement to post conditional licenses

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES PROVISIONS IN THE *HOUSE* BILL ONLY:

- 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
- Requires the commissioner of human services to establish and appoint a task force on **trauma-informed policy and practice** and reducing children's exposure to ACEs, and **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

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES PROVISIONS IN THE *SENATE* BILL ONLY:

- 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 starting in 2021, 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

- 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

EDUCATION PROVISIONS IN *BOTH* BILLS

- Makes the following changes to the **Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten and School Readiness** program language:
 - A requirement to use age-appropriate screening tools

EDUCATION PROVISIONS IN THE *HOUSE* BILL ONLY:

- Makes the following changes to the **Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten and School Readiness** program language:
 - 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 in 2020-21 (for a total 7,160 slots) but allows parents to be informed about and 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 and/or 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

EDUCATION PROVISIONS IN THE *SENATE* BILL ONLY:

- Makes the following changes to the **Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten and School Readiness** program language:
 - 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% 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

JOB GROWTH AND ENERGY AFFORDABILITY PROVISIONS IN THE *HOUSE* BILL ONLY:

- 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

OMNIBUS TAX PROVISIONS IN THE *HOUSE* BILL ONLY:

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

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 passed the House 126-0 on May 7. Senate received HF 3015; second reading on May 8.**
- Positive support strategies training rule child care providers exemption (**HF 3253-Franson/SF 2685-Lang**) - **SF 2685 passed the Senate 65-0 on May 7. House received SF 2685; second reading on May 8. Scheduled for House vote on May 15.**
- Child care licensing provisions modified (**HF 3403-Peterson/SF 3310 Weber**) - **SF 3310 passed the Senate 66-0 on May 7. House received SF 3310; second reading on 5/8. Scheduled for House vote on Tuesday, May 15.**
- Human services background study requirements modifications; national criminal history record check (**HF 4249-Albright/SF 2683-Kiffmeyer**) - **SF 2683 passed the Senate 59-5 on May 7. House received SF 2683; second reading on 5/9. Scheduled for a House vote on May 15.**
- Background study provisions modified (**SF 3731-Nelson**) - *No additional action taken this week.*

HIGHER EDUCATION

- Higher education policy provisions modifications (**SF 3327-Fischbach**) - *No additional action taken this week.*

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