



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE / May 22, 2018- PRELIMINARY FINAL REPORT

Welcome to the Child Care Aware Legislative Update. This is the preliminary final report at the end of the 2018 legislative session. Each week, a narrative update, along with our Bill Tracker, was posted each **Tuesday** (reflecting activity through the previous Friday) on the [Child Care Aware of Minnesota website](#).

If you have additions to recommend to the Bill Tracker, please contact [Ann McCully](#).

OVERVIEW

The Minnesota Legislature completed its session on **Sunday, May 20** at midnight after a flurry of final bills were passed off the House and Senate Floor.

The main vehicle for all spending (and much policy) related to early care and education and school-age care was the **Omnibus Supplemental Finance Bill (SF 3656)**. Differences in the House and Senate versions of this bill were resolved by the Conference Committee and their report was voted on by the House (passing 76-49) and the Senate (passing 35-32) on **Saturday, May 19**. Items included in this bill are highlighted below.

In addition, the **four child care bills** that passed the Senate or House floor in the prior week were taken up and passed by the other bodies on **May 14 and 15**. In all but one case, these bills were identical and have been signed into law by the governor. One bill, **SF 3310**, which deals with various aspects of child care licensing, was amended on the House floor, requiring the appointment of a conference committee. The conference committee report was passed on May 19 by both the House and Senate and is awaiting the governor's approval.

Finally, the **Senate Human Services Reform Finance Policy Committee** held a hearing on **May 15** to discuss the recent Fox 9 news report which included allegations regarding child care assistance fraud. On May 17, Senate Republican leadership proposed an independent agency to search for fraud in several Department of Human Services programs.

NEXT STEPS

For bills passed during the last three days of the Legislative session, the governor now has up to **two weeks** to sign, veto, or "pocket veto" (take no action) on bills that have been sent to his desk. Once we have the final word on the governor's action, we will publish a final Legislative Session Update.

OMNIBUS SUPPLEMENTAL FINANCE BILL (SF 3656) - Passed the House 76-49 and Senate 35-32 on May 19

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES PROVISIONS

- 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 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 states that if federal CCDBG funds are less than the amount received in federal fiscal year 2017, the commissioner, in consultation with the commissioner of management and budget, shall administer funding for child care programs to ensure that **the amount of general fund money** allocated to child care programs does not increase to replace the reduction in federal CCDBG funds.
- Directs the commissioner to **prioritize federal CCDF quality funds** to increase availability of training and business planning assistance for child care providers
- Adds **Child Care Assistance** to a list of other programs for which the commissioner is required to verify eligibility.
- Removes the requirement for licensed child care providers to **post correction orders**; does not remove the requirement to post conditional licenses
- Modifies family 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
- 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**
- 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, and **allocates \$55,000 for this purpose**
- 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 culturally/ethnically targeted home visiting programs

EDUCATION PROVISIONS

- 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
- 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
- **Adds access to background checks** by the Department of Human Services for tribal and Head Start programs
- Awards **\$73,000** 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 and modifies the percentage of students of color/American Indian students that must be served by the school to qualify for the program from "more than 30%" to "at least 30%"
- 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

OTHER BILLS

- 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 and the House 127-0 on May 15. Governor signed the bill on May 19.
- 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 and the House 127-0 on May 15. Bill became law without the governor's signature on May 19.
- Correction order posting requirements for child care licensing modified (HF3015-Quam/SF3508-Nelson). **HF 3015** passed the House 126-0 on May 7 and the Senate 66-0 on May 14. Governor signed the bill on May 19.
- Child care licensing provisions modified (HF 3403-Peterson/SF 3310 Weber). **SF 3310** passed the Senate 66-0 on May 7 and the House 127-0 on May 15.

There was an amendment added onto SF 3310 on the House floor that would require more training for licensing staff on how to recognize fraud. A conference committee of House and Senate members was formed to agree on final bill language. ***This conference committee report, which removed this added language, was passed by the House 125-0 on May 19 and the Senate 63-1 on May 20.***

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