



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE | January 15, 2019

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

The new Legislative session kicked off on Tuesday, January 8 following Monday's inauguration of Governor Tim Walz, Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan, and the other state constitutional officers.

Leaders in both the [House](#) and the [Senate](#) held press conferences during the first days of session to signal their top priorities by introducing their first slate of bills (see specific descriptions in the bill introductions section below). Both the DFL-led House and the Republican-led Senate included issues related to early care and education and family support in their initial bill introductions, signaling that this will be an important topic of conversation in both bodies this session.

### COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

Both the House and the Senate have introduced new committee structures that will impact how and where bills related to early care and education will be heard this year:

In the House, a new **Subcommittee on Early Childhood Finance and Policy**, chaired by Representative Dave Pinto, will be the first stop for many bills related to early care and education, including those that traditionally fell under the Education and Health and Human Services committees.

In the Senate, there is a new **Family Care and Aging Committee**, chaired by Senator Karen Housley, that will consider a range of issues that impact the lives of families, including child care and child care assistance.

The work of the committees will begin the week of January 14. Because this is a new biennial budget year and there are several new House members, the first week will be focused on providing overviews of the committee topics and jurisdiction. To find out about upcoming hearings, visit the Minnesota State Legislature [combined calendar page](#).

To see the committees that are served by your Legislators, view the [House](#) and [Senate](#) Committee rosters.

## BILL INTRODUCTIONS

For more information about each bill, please download our weekly Bill Tracker. This list includes topics, numbers, authors and general committee referrals for bills introduced through January 11, 2019:

- Additional funding and opportunities for children aged birth to three created; programs and funding for prenatal care services, home visiting, early childhood education, and child care assistance **(HF1-Pinto)**
- Funding for school-linked mental health service grants increased, funding for full-service community schools provided, funding for support our students grants extended, the homework starts with home program funded, the collaborative urban educator program funding increased **(HF 2-Edelson)**
- Paid family, pregnancy, bonding, and applicant's serious medical condition benefits **(HF 5-Halvorson)**
- Increasing funding for school-linked mental health services grants; providing funding for full-service community schools; extending funding for support our students grants; funding the homework starts with home program; increasing funding for the collaborative urban educator program **(HF 26-Kunesh-Podein)**
- Additional funding and opportunities for children aged birth to three created; programs and funding for prenatal care services, home visiting, early childhood education, and child care assistance **(HF 30-Moran)**
- Mental health grants establishment and appropriations **(SF 1-Rosen)**
- Family and group family child day care initial licensure modification; plain-language handbook, uniform family day care provider application, and child care provider communication process development requirement **(SF 2-Housley)**
- Human services provider enrollment medical assistance (MA) modification; counted income clarification; surety bond requirements; programs documentation and commissioner of human services authority modifications; visit verification system; universal identification number; fraud prevention investigations appropriation **(SF 4-Abeler)**
- Kindergarten readiness assessment requirement **(SF 33-Wiger)**
- Full-service community schools grants appropriation **(SF 37-Wiger)**
- Minnesota reads task force creation and appropriation **(SF 81-Wiger)**
- School-linked mental health services grants modification and appropriation **(SF 89-Nelson)**
- Parental leave costs individual income and corporate franchise employer tax credits **(SF 90-Nelson)**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb. 19:** Deadline for Gov. Walz to present his proposed budget  
**April 13-22:** Easter-Passover break for the Minnesota Legislature  
**May 20:** Deadline to end the 2019 legislative session