



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE / January 22, 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

This was the first full week of session, and House members continued to receive introductions to their committee jurisdiction and overviews of key topics that will be covered. Expect both bodies to begin to hear bills in the coming week.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

The House Education Finance Division met three times this week, hearing from the Minnesota Department of Education, several Education organizations, and the Minnesota Alliance with Youth.

The House Education Policy Committee met twice this week with overviews including the “Every Student Succeeds Act” (ESSA), the World’s Best Workforce strategy, and an overview of the Professional Educators Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB).

The House Health and Human Services Finance Division met three times and the **House Health and Human Services Policy Committee** met twice to receive overviews of their jurisdictions and to hear from House Research and the Minnesota Department of Human Services on various programs and funding streams.

The House Early Childhood Finance and Policy Division met twice for informational presentations on early childhood development from Dr. Megan Gunnar, Director of the Institute of Child Development at the University of Minnesota, and a presentation on infant mortality in Minnesota from Susan Castellano from the Minnesota Department of Health.

The Senate E-12 Policy and Finance Committee met twice to review the budget forecast and to hear the Legislative Agendas of several education-related organizations.

The Senate Human Services Reform Finance and Policy Committee met to review policy provisions from 2018 (SF 74), and to review a new bill related to program integrity (SF 4). **SF 4 was recommended to pass and referred to the Committee on Family Care and Aging.**

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**. **(New bills are highlighted in yellow.)**

Early Education/Child Care

- 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 1-Pinto and HF 30-Moran)**
- 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)**
- Minnesota Initiative Foundations grant for rural sustainable child care appropriation **(SF 137-Nelson)**
- Initial family and group family day care licensure requirement modification **(SF 155-Housley)**

Pre-K-12

- 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 and HF 26-Kunesh-Podein)**
- Mental health grants establishment and appropriations **(SF 1-Rosen)**
- 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)**
- Education programs; legislative grants awarded to organizations for education programs evidence-based grant standard established, and report required. **(HF 125-Bennett)**

Family Support

- Paid family, pregnancy, bonding, and applicant's serious medical condition benefits **(HF 5-Halvorson)**
- Parental leave costs individual income and corporate franchise employer tax credits **(SF 90-Nelson)**
- Statewide parent-to-parent programs for families of children and youth with special health care needs funding provided, and money appropriated **(HF 190-Zerwas)**
- Minnesota family investment program (MFIP) and general assistance (GA) cash grants increase and appropriation **(SF 167-Laine)**

Other

- 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)**

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