



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE | January 29, 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 House and Senate Committees continued to receive overviews of DHS and other state agency projects, staff, and issues last week. Some opportunities were also provided for advocacy groups to introduce themselves and their agendas for this session.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

- **The House Education Finance Division** met twice to receive a House Research overview of their jurisdiction and hear from several education-related organizations about their legislative agendas for this session.
- **The House Education Policy Committee** met once to hear from interested education organizations and for a discussion about “what students bring to the classroom.”
- **The House Education Policy and Finance Divisions** held a joint session to learn about mental health issues impacting youth.
- **The House Health and Human Services Finance Division** met three times to cover an explanation of DHS and MDH funding and structure, the Health Care access fund, and a “Results First” presentation from MMB.
- **The House Health and Human Services Policy Committee** met twice to receive an overview of DHS, including Commissioner and key staff Introductions, and a hearing on the impact of opioids on Native American population.
- **The House Early Childhood Finance and Policy Division** met once to hear from presenter Aaron Sojourner, PhD, Associate Professor and Labor Economist, on why the first 1,000 days of children’s lives matter, and a presentation on the 2018 Minnesota KIDS COUNT Data Book from the Children’s Defense Fund.
- **The Senate E-12 Policy and Finance Committee** met twice to review Federal Education grants in MN and to learn about the P-TECH School Model.
- **The Senate Human Services Reform Finance and Policy Committee** met to hear an overview of previous grant funded projects, including the Dakota County Birth to Eight grant.

- **The Senate Health and Human Services Finance and Policy Committee** received a presentations on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES), and screen time and adolescent brain, and heard the MDH-related sections of **SF 74 (Relph)** which was recommended to pass and referred to committee to Human Services Reform and Finance.

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**)
- Public assistance and child care programs counted income for eligibility determinations clarification (**SF 447-Benson**)

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/SF 369-Cwodzinski**)
- 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**)
- School districts authorized to transfer community education reserve funds (**HF 337-Davnie**)
- Cultural competency training for teacher licensure definition (**SF 289-Clausen**)
- Community education revenue program funding increase (**SF 292-Latz**)

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/SF 215-Hoffman**)
- Minnesota family investment program (MFIP) and general assistance (GA) cash grants increase and appropriation (**SF 167-Laine**)
- Paid family, pregnancy, bonding, and serious medical condition benefits provided, employment leaves regulated and required, data classified, rulemaking authorized, and money appropriated (**HF 256-Koegel**)
- Pregnant and parenting pupils transportation to certain qualifying educational programs requirement and appropriation (**SF 340-Draheim**)

Higher Education

- Student loan debt counseling grant program and appropriation (SF 306 Draheim)
- Higher education institutions eligibility for the state grant program modification (SF 378 Bingham)

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)
- Human services background studies disqualification of individuals with expunged criminal records prohibited (HF 290-Noor/SF 40-Champion)

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.