



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE | February 12, 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

While the pace of hearings on specific bills remained slow last week, the informational hearings continued to provide lots of background on key programs and issues, particularly for new members. There were also several new bills introduced, including several concerning child care regulation, that are highlighted below and included on the Bill Tracker.

### COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

- **The House Early Childhood Finance and Policy Division** met twice, receiving overviews of the Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE), Early Childhood Screening, and School Readiness programs, and a presentation on the 2018 Evaluation Report on Early Childhood Programs from the Office of the Legislative Auditor (OLA).
- **The House Education Finance Division** also met to receive an overview of early childhood programs.
- **The House Education Policy Committee** received a presentation on special education programming from the Minnesota Department of Education, Special Education Teachers, and Administrators.
- **The House Education and HHS Policy Committees** met jointly for a hearing on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) in Minnesota.
- **The Senate Human Services Reform Committee** met to receive an overview of federal and state-funded child care grant programs. They held an informational hearing on **(SF 794-Abeler)**, which would create a County Social Services Block Grant, and heard **(SF 215-Hoffman)**, which would provide funding for-parent-to-parent programs for children with special needs. This bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.

## 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 **February 8, 2019** (New bills are highlighted in yellow).

### Early Education/Child Care Program Development

- 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/SF 820-Wiklund**) and (**HF 30-Moran/SF 671-Wiklund**)
- Minnesota Initiative Foundations grant for rural sustainable child care appropriation (**SF 137-Nelson**)
- Child care in rural Minnesota funding provided and money appropriated (**HF 422-Brand/SF 537-Nelson**)
- Greater Minnesota child care facility capital grant program bond issue and appropriation (**HF 423-Brand/SF 538-Relph**)
- Community solutions funds for healthy child development grant program established and money appropriated (**HF 459-Hassan**)
- Child care businesses in low-income urban areas run by two women pilot program funding provided, reports required, and money appropriated (**HF 825-Kotyza-Witthun**)
- Child care business training funding provided, reports required, and money appropriated (**HF 908-Kotyza-Witthun**)
- Minneapolis YWCA job and career assistance appropriation (**SF 867-Hayden**)

### Child Care Regulations

- Temporary immediate license suspensions modified, eligibility verification required, theft offenses penalties established, and report required (**HF 446-Franson**)
- Legal non-licensed child care provider definition modified (**HF 481-Swedzinski**)
- Child care training requirements streamlining by commissioner of human services requirement (**HF 711-Zerwas/SF 789-Goggin**)
- Child age range increased for school-age care programs, funding for school-age care programs increased, and money appropriated (**HF 768-Edelson/SF 920-Cwodzinski**)
- Day care initial licensure requirement modified; commissioner of human services directed to implement child care provider communication process, develop plain-language handbook and a uniform family day care provider application; child care tax credits modified; report required; and money appropriated (**HF 770-Franson**)
- Family and group family child care initial licensure modification; plain-language handbook, uniform family child care provider application, and child care provider communication process development requirement (**SF 2-Housley**)
- Initial family and group family child care licensure requirement modification (**SF 155-Housley**)
- Child care fix-it ticket violation expansion (**SF 669-Abeler**)
- Human services child care background studies and training exemption authorization (**SF 882-Koran**)
- Child care provider licensing requirement interpretation dispute department of human services clarification consultation requirement (**SF 886-Weber**)
- Child care helper and emergency substitute caregiver training requirements exemptions (**SF 887-Weber**)
- Family child care centers child injury and illness health plan coverage requirement (**SF 977-Kiffmeyer**)
- Human services licensing provisions modifications (**SF 978-Kiffmeyer**)
- Child care training timelines extension and clarification (**SF 979-Kiffmeyer**)
- Child care training requirements clarification (**SF 980-Kiffmeyer**)
- Day care providers insurance policies provisions modifications (**SF 981-Kiffmeyer**)
- Family child care emergency preparedness plan requirements modifications (**SF 982-Kiffmeyer**)

## Child Care Assistance

- Public assistance and child care programs counted income for eligibility determinations clarification **(HF 380-Scott/SF 44-Benson)**
- Child care assistance program maximum reimbursement rates modified and money appropriated **(HF 496-Hassan)**
- Child care providers prohibited from receiving child care assistance program reimbursements for dependents of employees **(HF 497-Franson)**
- Child care assistance program disqualifications due to wrongfully obtaining assistance modified **(HF 498-Franson)**
- Low-income workers increased child care assistance and child care assistance reimbursement rates; basic sliding fee child care assistance program forecasting **(SF 625-Marty)**

## Pre-K – 12 Programs

- 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)**
- 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/SF 871-Dziedzic)**
- Kindergarten readiness assessment requirement **(HF 757-Her/SF 33-Wiger)**
- Minnesota reads task force creation and appropriation **(HF 835-Christensen/SF 81-Wiger)**
  
- Early childhood screening funding provided, and money appropriated **(HF 837-Sandstede)**
- After-school community learning program funding provided, report required, and money appropriated **(HF 907-Lee)**
- Mental health grants establishment and appropriations **(SF 1-Rosen)**
- Full-service community schools grants appropriation **(SF 37-Wiger)**
- School-linked mental health services grants modification and appropriation **(SF 89-Nelson)**
- Cultural competency training for teacher licensure definition **(SF 289-Clausen)**
- Community education revenue program funding increase **(SF 292-Latz)**
- Education partnership program modification and appropriation **(SF 939-Nelson)**

## 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 **(HF 309-Kunesh-Podein/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 **(HF 681-Tabke/SF 340-Draheim)**
- Prenatal care service programs and funding governed, and money appropriated **(HF 909-Morrison/SF 855-Abeler)**
- Minimum wage phased-in increase; federal social security tax loophole closure; child care assistance expansion; Minnesota Family Investment program (MFIP) cash grant increase; working family tax credit program increase; basic sliding fee child care assistance program forecasting **(SF 622-Marty)**

## Higher Education

- Student loan debt counseling grant program and appropriation (**HF 550-Pryor/SF 306-Draheim**)
- Higher education institutions eligibility for the state grant program modification (**SF 378-Bingham**)
- Teacher candidates of color financial aid provided and money appropriated (**HF 434-Noor**)
- Increase Teachers of Color Act funding provided, seeking to double American Indian teacher and teachers of color, reports required, and money appropriated (**HF 824-Kunesh-Podein/SF 1012-Torres Ray**)

## Other/Oversight

- Human services background studies disqualification of individuals with expunged criminal records prohibited (**HF 290-Noor/SF 405-Champion**)
- Office of Inspector General created (**HF 445-Franson**)
- Background checks required on all first-time teaching applicants and mandatory reporting expanded (**HF 532-Erickson**)
- 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 block grant program establishment (**HF 794-Abeler**)
- Early care and education department establishment (**SF 945-Torres Ray**)

## COMMITTEE DEADLINES

- **Friday, March 15:** Committees must act favorably on bills in the house of origin
- **Friday, March 29:** Committees must act favorably on bills, or companion bills, that met the first deadline in the other house
- **Friday, April 12:** Committees must act favorably on major appropriation and finance bills

## 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