



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE | March 5, 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

Last week saw the release of the [February Budget forecast](#). This report showed that while there is still a predicted surplus of **\$1.052 billion** in the next biennium, there is **\$492 million less** than what was predicted in the November Forecast. The budget outlook was weakened due to slower projected economic growth and lower observed collections of tax funds. Now that the forecast has been released, committees will soon move forward with more specific budget targets based on available funds.

The other main activity last week was a presentation of the Governor's budget in each of the relevant House and Senate Committees. These proposals should begin to be introduced as bills in the coming weeks.

Finally, the pace of bill hearings picked up greatly last week, and will continue into the first weeks of March, as legislators want their bills to meet the first committee deadline of March 15.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

The House Early Childhood Finance and Policy Division acted on the following bills (*both bills were laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill*):

- [HF1238](#) (Pryor) Child care assistance program provisions modified.
- [HF1230](#) (Pinto) Early learning scholarships eligibility modified, and voluntary prekindergarten programs expanded to five groups.

The House Education Finance Division acted on the following bills:

- [HF 681](#) (Tabke) Pregnant and parenting pupils' transportation to qualified programs provided, reimbursement allowed, and money appropriated. *Bill was laid over for possible inclusion in omnibus bill.*

- [HF 1594](#) (Richardson) YWCA funding provided for job skills training in early childhood education. *Bill was re-referred to Ways and Means.*

The House Education Policy Division acted on the following bill:

- [HF824](#) (Kunesh-Podein) Increase Teachers of Color Act funding provided, seeking to double American Indian teachers and teachers of color, reports required, and money appropriated. *Bill was re-referred to Ways and Means.*

The House Health and Human Services Policy Division acted on the following bills:

- [HF742](#) (Morrison) Children's and parent's mental health provisions modified, and money appropriated. *Bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.*
- [HF909](#) (Morrison) Prenatal care service programs and funding governed, and money appropriated. *Bill was heard and re-referred to Ways and Means Committee.*

The House Government Operations acted on the following bill:

- [HF 5](#) (Halvorson) Paid family leave act. *Bill was amended and re-referred to the Ways and Means.*

The House Higher Education Committee acted on the following bill:

- [HF 550](#) (Pryor) student loan debt counseling. *Bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.*

The Senate Family Care and Aging Division acted on the following bill:

- [S.F. 1295](#) (Housley) Child care authorizations for parenting time clarification, child care reimbursements for parenting time clarification, child care reporting requirements clarification, parenting time presumptions modification, parenting time schedules findings requirement. *Bill was re-referred to the Judiciary and Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee.*

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 **March 1, 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-Kotyza-Witthuhn/SF 820-Wiklund**) and (**HF 30-Moran/SF 671-Wiklund**)
- 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-Witthuhn/SF 1052-Wiklund**)
- Child care business training funding provided, reports required, and money appropriated (**HF 908-Kotyza-Witthuhn/SF 1051-Wiklund**)
- Head Start program governing requirements amended, and technical and clarifying changes made (**HF 1220-Koegel**)
- Programs and funding for home visits; appropriating money (**HF 1226-Bahner/SF 1438-Relph**)

- Modifying eligibility for early learning scholarships; expanding voluntary prekindergarten programs to five groups **(HF 1230-Pinto/SF 1832-Anderson, P.)**
- Childhood trauma-informed policy and practices task force established, and reports required **(HF 1258-Moran/SF 1935-Abeler)**
- Community solutions for healthy child development grant program established, and money appropriated **(HF 1381-Kunesh-Podein)**
- Minneapolis YWCA job and career assistance appropriation **(HF 1594-Richardson/SF 867-Hayden)**
- Minnesota Initiative Foundations grant for rural sustainable child care appropriation **(SF 137-Nelson)**

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 care licensing requirements modified **(HF 740-Quam)**
- 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)**
- Child care licensing and background study record requirements streamline authorization **(HF 1684-Wazlawik/SF 1035-Relph)**
- Child care substitute length of time to provide care modification **(HF 1685-Wazlawik/SF 1034-Relph)**
- 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 **(HF 1701-Pinto/SF 2-Housley)**
- Day care facilities licensing statutes recodification requirement **(HF 1801-Pinto/SF 1030-Kiffmeyer)**
- Child care providers reporting requirement non-compliance penalty added **(HF 1874-Albright)**
- 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)**
- Crime of falsely reporting child abuse against a licensed day care center crime establishment **(SF 1064-Johnson)**
- Family child care homes and group family child care minimum water temperature requirements clarification **(SF 1097 Mathews)**
- Child care programs water bottles requirements modification **(HF 1841-Olson/SF 1919-Simonson)**

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)**
- Criminal penalties for failing to cooperate in child care assistance program fraud investigations established **(HF 791-Franson)**
- Child Care Assistance Program rates modified **(HF 1227-Kotyza-Witthuhn)**
- Forecasting the Basic Sliding Fee Child Care Assistance Program **(HF 1228-Wazlawik)**
- Child care assistance for homeless people **(HF 1238-Pryor/SF 1111-Weber)**
- Child care funding priorities basic sliding fee and allocation formula modified **(HF 1536-Wazlawik)**
- Child care centers required to provide proof of surety bond coverage **(HF 1541-Zerwas/SF 1846-Jasinski)**
- Child care assistance provider payments modified **(HF 1548-Albright)**
- Child care assistance program record-keeping requirements clarified **(HF 1680-Demuth)**
- Low-income workers increased child care assistance and child care assistance reimbursement rates; basic sliding fee child care assistance program forecasting **(HF 1703-Richardson/SF 625-Marty)**
- Child care assistance program eligibility restrictions extended **(HF 1724-Zerwas/SF 1845 Jasinski)**
- Commissioner of human services directed to provide child care assistance program billing form notices, child care assistance program provider requirements modified, and criminal penalties provided **(HF 1881-Heitzman)**

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/SF 1059-Kent)** 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)**
- Early learning scholarship age eligibility amended **(HF 760-Urdahl/SF 1619-Eken)**
- Minnesota reads task force creation and appropriation **(HF 835-Christensen/SF 81-Wiger)**
- Early childhood screening funding provided, and money appropriated **(HF 837-Sandstede/SF 1435 Cwodzinski)**
- After-school community learning program funding provided, report required, and money appropriated **(HF 907-Lee/SF 1428-Eichorn)**
- Full-service community schools grants appropriation **(HF 1013-Murphy/SF 37-Wiger)**
- Education partnership program modification and appropriation **(HF 1056-Moran/SF 939-Nelson)**
- Early learning scholarships eligibility modified **(HF 1110-Zerwas/SF 1367-Housley)**
- Licensure requirement provisions technical changes made **(HF 1116 Mariani)**
- Early education teacher licensure requirements established **(HF 1512-Sandell/SF 1482-Kent)**
- Early education provisions modified, five regions for the voluntary prekindergarten program established, and school readiness plus program made permanent **(HF 1590-Bernardy)**
- School-linked mental health services grants modification and appropriation **(HF 1557-Edelson/SF 89-Nelson)**
- Voluntary prekindergarten program funded participants number for fiscal year 2020 and later increased, and money appropriated. **(HF 1676-Richardson/SF 1057-Kent)**
- Voluntary prekindergarten program participation limits increased **(HF 1742-Kotyza-Witthun/SF 1831-Anderson, P.)**

- Pupil Fair Dismissal Act amended, and pupil dismissals limited (**HF 1785-Richardson/SF 1874-Kent**)
- Mental health grants establishment and appropriations (**SF 1-Rosen**)
- 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**)
- Prekindergarten program funded participants for fiscal year 2020 and later increase and appropriation
- Community education advisory council responsibilities and general community education revenue allowable uses calculation modifications; appropriation (**SF 1138-Nelson**)
- Voluntary prekindergarten pupils expenditures school district and charter school recording requirement (**SF 1139-Nelson**)
- Voluntary prekindergarten participants service through mixed-delivery services requirement (**SF 1238-Nelson**)
- Early learning scholarships child and program eligibility and commissioner designation authority modifications; early childhood screening requirements for children with an early learning scholarship clarification; appropriation (**SF 1306-Nelson**)

Family Support

- Paid family, pregnancy, bonding, and applicant's serious medical condition benefits (**HF 5-Halvorson/SF 1060-Kent**)
- 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**)
- 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**)
- Minnesota Family Investment program (MFIP) and General Assistance (GA) cash grants increase and appropriation (**HF 309-Kunesh-Podein/SF 167-Laine**)
- Pregnant and parenting pupils transportation to certain qualifying educational programs requirement and appropriation (**HF 681-Tabke/SF 340-Draheim**)
- Children's and parent's mental health provisions modified (**HF 742-Morrison/SF 1437-Mathews**)
- Prenatal care service programs and funding governed, and money appropriated (**HF 909-Morrison/SF 855-Abeler**)
- Child care support notification requirement modified (**HF 1266-Scott/SF 1352-Relph**)
- Parenting with disability support services pilot project established (**HF 1281-Fischer/SF 1555-Marty**)
- Parenting time for child care modified, technical changes made, and redundant language removed (**HF 1309-Scott**)
- Parent-child home program funding provided, and money appropriated (**HF 1582-Yoakim/SF 1647-Albright**)
- Child care authorizations for parenting time clarification; child care reimbursements for parenting time clarification; child care reporting requirements clarification; parenting time presumptions modification; parenting time schedules findings requirement (**HF 1666-Scott/SF 1295-Housley**)
- Parental leave costs individual income and corporate franchise employer tax credits (**SF 90-Nelson**)
- 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**)
- Parental leave work group establishment and appropriation (**SF 1134- Housley**)

Higher Education

- Teacher candidates of color financial aid provided and money appropriated (**HF 434-Noor**)
- Student loan debt counseling grant program and appropriation (**HF 550-Pryor/SF 306-Draheim**)
- 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**)
- Higher education institutions eligibility for the state grant program modification (**SF 378-Bingham**)

Taxes

- Refundable tax credit for certain qualified child care expenses, professionals, and providers established (**HF 1034/SF 1110-Anderson, P.**)
- Working family tax credit modified (**HF 1465-Wazliwuk/SF 623-Marty**)
- Working family tax credit calculation modified (**HF 1620-Gomez**)
- Working family tax credit calculation modified (**HF 1795-Brand**)
- Working family tax credit calculation modified (**HF 1825-Loeffler**)
- Individual income tax education expense credit and deduction application to prekindergarten expenses (**SF 1573-Anderson, P.**)

Other/Oversight

- Human services background studies disqualification of individuals with expunged criminal records prohibited (**HF 290-Noor/SF 405-Champion**)
- Child care facilities property tax exemption provided (**HF 441-Gruenhagen/SF 702-Newman**)
- Office of Inspector General created (**HF 445-Franson**)
- Background checks required on all first-time teaching applicants and mandatory reporting expanded (**HF 532-Erickson**)
- Tribal organizations and Head Start programs background studies governed (**HF 1384-Her/SF 1436-Relph**)
- Background study provisions for minors modified (**HF 1395-Layman/SF 1451-Eichorn**)
- Background study set aside criteria modified (**HF 1543-Dehn/SF 1695-Abeler**)
- Ombudsperson for child care providers creation and appropriation (**HF 1665 Demuth/SF 1452-Howe**)
- 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 (**SF 794-Abeler**)
- Early care and education department establishment (**SF 945-Torres Ray**)

COMMITTEE DEADLINES

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **April 13-22:** Easter-Passover break for the Minnesota Legislature
- **May 20:** Deadline to end the 2019 legislative session