



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE | March 19, 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 a flurry of hearings as lawmakers worked toward the first committee deadline. In addition, the [special report by the Legislative Auditor](#) on Child Care Assistance Program fraud was released, and an overview of the findings was presented to the Senate Human Resources Finance and Policy Committee on March 13.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

The House Early Childhood Finance and Policy Division took action on the following bills:

- [HF 1590](#) (Bernardy) Early education provisions modified, five regions for the voluntary prekindergarten program established, and school readiness plus program made permanent. **Laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.**
- [HF 1512](#) (Sandell) Early education teacher licensure requirements established. **Laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.**
- [HF 1384](#) (Her) Tribal organizations and Head Start programs background studies governed. **Laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.**
- [HF 1785](#) (Richardson) Pupil Fair Dismissal Act amended, and pupil dismissals limited. **Laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.**
- [HF1582](#) (Youakim) Parent-child home program funding provided, and money appropriated. **Laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.**
- [HF422](#) (Brand) Child care in rural Minnesota funding provided, and money appropriated. **Referred to Health and Human Services Finance Division.**
- [HF423](#) (Brand) Greater Minnesota child care facility grant program funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated. **Referred to Health and Human Services Finance Division.**
- [HF2264](#) (Wazlawik) Retaining early educators through attaining incentives now (REETAIN) grant program established, reports required, and money appropriated. **Laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.**

- [HF2111](#) (Kotzya Witthuhn Reach Out and Reach Minnesota program grant funding provided, and money appropriated. ***Laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.***

The House Education Finance Division took action on the following bill:

- [HF 2207](#) (Davnie) Governor's Education bill. ***Laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.***

The House Education Policy Division took action on the following bill:

- *The House Education Policy Committee completed mark-up of their omnibus bill [HF 1711](#). This bill will be outlined in more detail in the next Legislative Update.*

The House Health and Human Services Finance Division took action on the following bills:

- [HF 825](#) (Kotzya-Witthuhn) Child care pilot program to create two women-run businesses in low-income urban areas funding provided, reports required, and money appropriated. ***Referred to Ways and Means; Referred to Jobs and Economic Development Finance Division.***
- [HF 908](#) (Kotzya-Witthuhn) Child care business training funding provided, reports required, and money appropriated. ***Referred to Ways and Means; Referred to Jobs and Economic Development Finance Division.***
- [HF 1664](#) (Gomez) Commissioner of Health grant to low-income families of color doula support, childbirth, and postpartum services funding provided, and money appropriated. ***Laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.***

The House Judiciary Finance and Civil Law Committee took action on the following bills:

- [HF 5](#) (Halvorson) Paid family, pregnancy, bonding and applicant's serious medical condition benefits, regulation of certain employment leaves required, certain data classified, rulemaking authorized, and money appropriated. ***Referred to Ways and Means; Re-referred to Jobs and Economic Development Finance Division.***
- [HF 2397](#) (Pryor) Children and family service policy provisions modified. ***Re-referred to Health and Human Services Policy.***

The House Government Operations Committee took action on the following bills:

- [HF 1287](#) (Fischer) Parenting with disability support services pilot project established, report required, and money appropriated. ***Re-referred to Ways and Means.***
- [HF 1258](#) (Moran) Childhood trauma-informed policy and practices task force established, and reports required. ***Re-referred to Ways and Means.***
- [HF 1381](#) (Kunesh-Podein) Community solutions for healthy child development grant program established, and money appropriated. ***Re-referred to Ways and Means.***

The House Tax Committee took action on the following bill:

- [HF 2125](#) (Marquart) Governor's Tax bill. ***Laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.***

The Senate Family Care and Aging Division took action on the following bills:

- [SF 2](#) (Housley) 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; appropriation. ***This bill serves as the omnibus child care bill. Bill referred to Human Services Reform Finance and Policy. This bill will be outlined in more detail in the next update.***
- [SF 2322](#) (Weber) Child care technical assistance notice establishment. ***Bill referred to Human Services Reform Finance and Policy.***

The Senate Human Services Reform Policy and Finance Committee took action on the following bills:

- [SF 1845](#) (Jasinski) Child care assistance program eligibility restrictions extension. ***Laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.***

- [SF 1846](#) (Jasinski) Child care centers proof of surety bond coverage requirement. **Laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.**
- [SF 4](#) (Relph) 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. **Bill re-referred to Judiciary and Public Safety Finance and Policy Division.**
- [SF 1367](#) (Housley) Early learning scholarships eligibility modification and data sharing authorization. **Bill re-referred to Judiciary and Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee.**
- [SF 978](#) (Kiffmeyer) Human services licensing provisions modifications. **Bill referred to General orders.**

The Senate State Government Finance and Policy Committee took action on the following bills:

- [SF 1452](#) (Howe) Ombudsperson for child care providers creation and appropriation. **Re-referred to Judiciary and Public Safety Finance and Policy.**

The Senate Tax Committee took action on the following bill:

- [HF 702](#) (Newman) Tax Exemptions for child care facilities. **Laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.**

BILL INTRODUCTIONS

Beginning with this week's report, **only bills that have received a hearing are listed below (highlighted in yellow)**. For information about *all bills* that have been introduced, please download our weekly [Bill Tracker](#).

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](#))
- 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](#))
- 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](#))
- 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/ SF 2044](#))
- Minneapolis YWCA job and career assistance appropriation ([HF 1594-Richardson/SF 867-Hayden](#))
- Retaining early educators through attaining incentives now (REETAIn) grant program established, reports required, and money appropriated ([HF 2264-Wazliwuk/SF 2363-Draheim](#))

Child Care Regulations

- 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/SF 2560-Nelson)
- Child age range increased for school-age care programs, funding for school-age care programs increased, and money appropriated (HF 768-Edelson/SF 920-Cwodziński)
- Child care licensing and background study record requirements streamline authorization (HF 1684/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 provider licensing requirement interpretation dispute department of human services clarification consultation requirement (SF 886-Weber)
- Child care fix-it ticket violation expansion (SF 669-Abeler)
- Human services child care background studies and training exemption authorization (SF 882-Koran)
- 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)
- Family child care emergency preparedness plan requirements modifications (HF 1924-Pryor/SF 982-Kiffmeyer)
- Family child care homes and group family child care minimum water temperature requirements clarification (SF 1097 Mathews)
- Licensure requirement provisions technical changes made (HF 1116-Lee/SF 1499-Cwodziński)
- Child care programs water bottles requirements modification (HF 1841-Olson/SF 1919-Simonson)
- Child care technical assistance notice establishment (SF 2322-Weber)

Child Care Assistance

- Child care assistance for homeless people (HF 1238-Pryor/SF 1111-Weber)
- Child care centers required to provide proof of surety bond coverage (HF 1541-Zerwas/SF 1846-Jasinski)
- Child care assistance program eligibility restrictions extended (HF 1724-Zerwas/SF 1845-Jasinski)

Pre-K–12 Programs

- Education programs; legislative grants awarded to organizations for education programs evidence-based grant standard established, and report required (HF 125-Brand/SF 2282-Rosen)
- School districts authorized to transfer community education reserve funds (HF 337-Davnie/SF 871-Dziedzic)
- Early learning scholarship age eligibility amended (HF 760-Urdahl/SF 1619-Eken)
- Early childhood screening funding provided, and money appropriated (HF 837-Sandstede/SF 1435-Cwodziński)
- 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)
- 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)
- 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)
- Reach Out and Reach Minnesota program grant funding provided, and money appropriated (HF 2111-Kotyza-Witthuhn/SF 2298-Housley)

- Governor's Education Bill (HF 2207-Davnie/SF2347-Nelson)
- Voluntary prekindergarten participants service through mixed-delivery services requirement (HF 2480/SF 1238-Nelson)
- Community education revenue program funding increase (SF 292-Latz)
- 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)
- 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)
- 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)
- Parenting with disability support services pilot project established (HF 1287-Fischer/SF 1555-Marty)
- Parent-child home program funding provided, and money appropriated (HF 1582-Yoakim/SF 1647-Albright)
- Commissioner of health grant to low-income families of color doula support, childbirth, and postpartum services funding provided, and money appropriated (HF 1664-Gomez)
- 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)

Higher Education

- 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)

Taxes

- Child care facilities property tax exemption provided (HF 441-Gruenhagen/SF 702-Newman)
- Refundable tax credit for certain qualified child care expenses, professionals, and providers established (HF 1034/SF 1110-Anderson, P.)
- Working family tax credit calculation modified (HF 1620-Gomez/SF 2507-Rest)
- Working family tax credit calculation modified (HF 1795-Brand/SF 2503-Rest)
- Working family tax credit calculation modified (HF 1825-Loeffler/SF 2506-Rest)
- Governor's Tax Bill (HF 2125-Marquart-SF 2411-Rest)
- Individual income tax education expense credit and deduction application to prekindergarten expenses (SF 1573-Anderson, P.)

Other/Oversight

- 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**)
- Ombudsperson for child care providers creation and appropriation (**HF 1665 Demuth/SF 1452-Howe**)
- Children and family service policy provisions modified (**HF 2397-Pryor/SF 2320-Relph**)
- 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-Relph**)

COMMITTEE DEADLINES

- **March 29:** Committees must act favorably on companion bills that met the first deadline in the other house
- **April 12:** Committees must act favorably on major appropriation and finance bills
- **May 1:** The House and Senate must pass all major finance bills off their respective floors and appoint conference committee members.
- **May 6:** Conference committee budget targets must be given to conference committee members.
- **May 13:** Conference committee reports must be completed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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