



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE | April 9, 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 was a flurry of activity as several committees completed their work on their omnibus bills, including the House Education Committee, the House Health and Human Services Committee, and the House Jobs and Economic Development Committee (see summaries below). The remaining omnibus bills will be heard this week, prior to the April 12 deadline.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

The House Education Finance Committee acted on the following bill:

- [HF 2400](#) (Davnie) Omnibus Education Finance bill. *Referred to Ways and Means.*

The House Health and Human Services Finance Committee acted on the following bills:

- [HF 5](#) (Halverson) Paid family, pregnancy, bonding, and applicant's serious medical condition benefits. *Referred to Ways and Means.*
- [HF 2414](#) (Liebling) Omnibus Health and Human Services Finance bill. *Referred to Ways and Means.*

The House Jobs and Economic Development Committee acted on the following bill:

- [HF 2208](#) (Mahoney) Omnibus Jobs and Economic Development bill. *Referred to Ways and Means.*

The House Higher Education Committee acted on the following bill:

- [HF 434](#) (Noor) Teacher candidates of color financial aid provided, and money appropriated. *Laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.*

The Senate Human Services Reform Policy and Finance Committee acted on the following bill:

- [SF 2302](#) (Marty) Governor's Health and Human Services bill. *Passed as amended and re-referred to Health and Human Services Finance and Policy Committee.*

HOUSE OMNIBUS EDUCATION FINANCE BILL- HF 2400

- Strikes obsolete language that prohibits a district from using **fees for an all-day kindergarten** program on programs for three- and four-year old children.
- Requires applicants for **grants** administered by the commissioner of education to include in their applications a statement of the goals of the grant, and that goals should be aligned to the World's Best Workforce goals, and Minnesota's ESSA plan goals.
- Modifies qualifications for organizations eligible to receive **after-school community learning program grants**, and adds requirements for how grants must be used (\$4 million for 2020-21; \$5 million for 2022-23).
- Expands funding for/further defines **full-service community schools**, and establishes grant amounts as \$100,000 for up to one year for planning purposes and \$150,000 annually each year thereafter for each eligible school site (\$15 million in 2020-21; \$25 million in 2022-23).
- Implements several elements dedicated to **increasing the percentage of teachers of color and American Indian teachers** in Minnesota. The "Grow your Own" program is expanded to include Head Start teachers (\$10 million in 2020-21 and \$10 million in 2022-23 for Grow your Own program).
- Adds language **to prohibit the dismissal of a child participating or enrolled in a prekindergarten program.**
- Adds language **requiring a school district or charter school that operates a preschool, school readiness, school readiness plus, prekindergarten or other similar early education to employ a licensed teacher.** Current teachers in these programs would have until 2024 to meet this requirement.
- Clarifies that the **cognitive and social skills formative measure** administered to prekindergarten pupils under a voluntary prekindergarten program must be age-appropriate.
- **Allows community-based child care programs/providers to charge a fee** if they are serving a four-year old child through a mixed delivery partnership with a school (if they were not awarded the "seat" for the child).
- Broadens **distribution of voluntary prekindergarten funds** from four groups to five, splitting Minneapolis and Saint Paul into their own groups.
- **Maintains the current levels of participation in the voluntary prekindergarten/school readiness plus program** at 7,160 per fiscal year (\$47 million for 2020-21; \$57.3 million for 2022-23).
- **Modifies early learning scholarship income verification requirements** so that parents or guardians do not have to verify income for homeless children, children in need of protective services, or children in foster care.
- **Lowers the scholarship age eligibility for a Pathway I scholarship** to require that a recipient is from birth to age three, except for: (1) a sibling of a scholarship recipient, who can be up to age four; and (2) a recipient who had previously received a scholarship (until the child is eligible for kindergarten).
- **Eliminates a cap on the number of scholarships distributed through Pathway II** to program sites, for award by those programs (which is currently set at the funding level in fiscal year 2017). These scholarships can serve ages 0-5, but are meant to prioritize ages 0-2.
- **Creates an "early learning scholarship account"** in the special revenue fund to allow unspent scholarship funds to be recouped and regranted.
- **Allows Tribal organizations and Head Start programs to utilize the DHS background study process.**
- **Requires a report from DHS and MDE on enhancing coordination** of the child care assistance and early learning scholarship programs.
- Provides a grant to **Reach Out and Read Minnesota** (\$205,000 for 2020-21).
- Increases funding for the **Education Partnership Programs** for Tier 1 (Northside Achievement Zone and St. Paul Promise Neighborhood), and Tier 2 (implementation grants). (\$5.9 million in 2020-21; \$2.2 million in 2022-23)

Bills/portions of bills included in HF 2400:

- Funding for school-linked mental health service grants increased, funding for full-service community schools (**HF 2-Edelson**)
- Children's and parent's mental health provisions modified (**HF 742-Morrison**)

- 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**)
- After-school community learning program funding provided (**HF 907-Lee**)
- Full-service community schools grants appropriation (**HF 1013-Murphy**)
- Governor's Education Bill (**HF 2207-Davnie**)
- **Early Childhood Division report (HF 2610-Pinto)**
 - Modifying eligibility for early learning scholarships; expanding voluntary prekindergarten programs to five groups. (**HF 1230-Pinto**)
 - Tribal organizations and Head Start programs background studies governed (**HF 1384-Her**)
 - Early education teacher licensure requirements established (**HF 1512-Sandell**)
 - Early education provisions modified, five regions for the voluntary prekindergarten program established, and school readiness plus program made permanent (**HF 1590-Bernardy**)
 - Pupil Fair Dismissal Act amended, and pupil dismissals limited (**HF 1785-Richardson**)
 - Reach Out and Reach Minnesota program grant funding provided, and money appropriated (**HF 2111-Kotyza-Witthuhn**)
 - Early care and education program requirements governed including quality rating and improvement system, implementation outreach, universal identified requirements, and data practices evaluation; early care and education coordination task force established (**HF 2195-Pryor**)
 - Early childhood, child care, and family support program eligibility, participation, and requirements modified (**HF 2463-Pinto**)
- **Education Policy Omnibus Bill (HF 1711-Yoakim):**
 - Education programs; legislative grants awarded to organizations for education programs evidence-based grant standard established, and report required (**HF 125-Bennett**)
 - Education partnership program modification and appropriation (**HF 1056-Moran**)
 - Licensure requirement provisions technical changes made (**HF 1116-Lee**)
 - Prekindergarten through grade 12 education policy changes made including general education, education excellence, nutrition, and facilities; and reports required (**HF 1954-Youakim**)

HOUSE OMNIBUS HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE BILL- HF 2414

- Funding to **First Children's Finance** for loans business planning assistance (\$1 million for 2020-21).
- Funding for the **REETAIn grant** program (\$200,000 for 2020-21; \$200,000 for 2022-23).
- Moves Home Visiting language from previous year "rider" into statute and **funds expansion of Home Visiting grants** (\$500,000 for 2020-21).
- **Creates the Community Solutions for Healthy Development grant program** to improve child development outcomes as related to the well-being of children of color and American Indian children from prenatal to grade 3 and their families (\$2 million for 2020-21).
- Increases the **provider reimbursement rate for CCAP** to the 25th percentile of the 2018 market rate survey, and moves the survey from every 2 years to every 3 years. (\$10.8 million in 2020-21; \$51 million in 2022-23)
- **Funds Basic Sliding Fee program** to move 1,000 families off the waiting list (\$25.7 million in 2020-21; \$37.1 million in 2022-23).
- Includes **CCAP integrity provisions** and funding needed to implement them (\$2 million in 2020-21; \$2.4 million in 2022-23)
- Implements the **CCAP "family friendly" provisions** needed for federal compliance, including expedited access for homeless families, and implementation of 1-year coverage (focused on transition year and portability pool)
- Additional **CCAP provider fair hearing and administrative review processes**, also requirements of CCDBG.
- Revokes a provider's quality rating and prohibits them from receiving payment through early learning scholarships if they have committed **CCAP fraud**.

- Several **child care licensing-related provisions** including opportunity for providers to seek clarification of a county licenser's interpretation of a licensing requirement, allowing for the use of reusable water cups in child care centers, DHS development of policies and procedures for reporting suspected maltreatment written in plain language, and a change in the required licensing contact information printed on the posted license.
- Clarifies that a **related individual** may supervise the family child care license holder's *own* child both inside and outside the licensed space. It also clarifies that this individual is exempt from training requirements.
- Makes changes to the **substitute care provisions in family child care** regarding the number of hours of care in a calendar year, and the use of **emergency caregivers**.
- Clarifies some **supervision issues** related to school-age care children in a child care setting.
- Makes **changes and clarifications to training requirements** across roles in three types of settings (Licensed Centers, Licensed Family Child Care Homes, and Certified Centers) to align with CCDBG requirements.

Bills/portions of bills included in HF 2414

- Prenatal care service programs and funding governed, and money appropriated (**HF 909-Morrison**)
- Early learning scholarships eligibility modified (**HF 1110-Zerwas**)
- Community solutions for healthy child development grant program established (**HF 1381-Kunesh-Podein**)
- Governor's Health and Human Services Bill (**HF 2184-Liebling**)
- **Early Childhood Division report (HF 1801-Pinto)**
 - Child care licensing requirements modified (**HF 740-Quam**)
 - Programs and funding for home visits; appropriating money (**HF 1226-Bahner**)
 - Child care assistance for homeless people (**HF 1238-Pryor**)
 - Child care programs water bottles requirements modification (**HF 1841-Olson**)
 - Family child care emergency preparedness plan requirements modifications (**HF 1924-Pryor**)
 - Human services licensing provisions modifications (**HF 1925-Pryor**)
 - Human services child care background studies and training exemption (**HF 1926-Pryor**)
 - Child care provider licensing requirement interpretation dispute department of human services clarification consultation requirement (**HF 2047-Pryor**)
 - Retaining early educators through attaining incentives now (REETAIN) grant program (**HF 2264-Wazliwuk**)
 - Early childhood, child care, and family support program eligibility, participation, and requirements modified (**HF 2319-Pinto**)
 - Child care site assistance funding provided (**HF 2420-Davnie**)
 - Children and family services provisions modified (**HF 2575-Pinto**)

HOUSE OMNIBUS JOBS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BILL- HF 2208

- Provides \$2.86 million in 2020 for **grants to projects that support economic development** by increasing the availability of child care. Eligible recipients for these grants are limited to:
 1. WomenVenture
 2. The Minnesota Initiative Foundations
 3. Eligible applicants under the child care economic development grant program (administered by DEED)
- Allocates \$525,000 each year is for a **grant to the YWCA of Minneapolis** to provide economically challenged individuals the jobs skills training, career counseling, and job placement assistance necessary to secure a child development associate credential and to have a career path in early childhood education.
- Incorporates language and allocates funding to DEED and other departments for implementation and administration of the proposed **paid family and medical leave act** (\$36.6 million in 2020-21).

Bills/portions of bills included in HF 2208:

- Paid family, pregnancy, bonding, and applicant's serious medical condition benefits (**HF 5-Halvorson**)
- Child care in rural Minnesota funding provided, and money appropriated (**HF 422-Brand**)
- 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**)
- Child care business training funding provided, reports required, and money appropriated (**HF 908-Kotyza-Witthuhn**)
- Minneapolis YWCA job and career assistance appropriation (**HF 1594-Richardson**)
- Child care economic grant program created, and money appropriated (**HF 2474-Claflin**)

BILL PROGRESS

Only bills that are under consideration for remaining omnibus bill or bills that are moving separately are listed below. The bills are now grouped by the Committee of jurisdiction. For information about *all bills* that have been introduced, please download our weekly [Bill Tracker](#).

Bills moving independently to floor:

- Modifying eligibility for early learning scholarships; expanding voluntary prekindergarten programs to five groups (**HF 1230-Pinto**)
- Children and family service policy provisions modified (**HF 2397-Pryor**)
- Human services licensing provisions modifications (**SF 978-Kiffmeyer**)-*Also in SF 2.*
- Child care training timelines extension and clarification (**SF 979-Kiffmeyer**)-*Also in SF 2.*

Senate Omnibus Child Care bill (SF 2):

- Child care in rural Minnesota funding provided and money appropriated (**SF 537-Nelson**)
- Child care fix-it ticket violation expansion (**SF 669-Abeler**)
- Child care training requirements streamlining by commissioner of human services requirement (**SF 789-Goggin**)
- 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**)
- Human services licensing provisions modifications (**SF 978-Kiffmeyer**)-*Also moving separately.*
- Child care training timelines extension and clarification (**SF 979-Kiffmeyer**)-*Also moving separately.*
- Child care training requirements clarification (**SF 980-Kiffmeyer**)
- Family child care emergency preparedness plan requirements modifications (**SF 982-Kiffmeyer**)
- Day care facilities licensing statutes recodification requirement (**SF 1030-Kiffmeyer**)
- Child care substitute length of time to provide care modification (**SF 1034-Relph**)
- Child care licensing and background study record requirements streamline authorization (**SF 1035-Relph**)
- Ombudsperson for child care providers creation and appropriation (**SF 1452-Howe**)
- Child care programs water bottles requirements modification (**SF 1919-Simonson**)
- Child care technical assistance notice establishment (**SF 2322-Weber**)
- Special family child care home additional licenses authorization (**SF 2343-Housley**)
- Family child care task force establishment; reporting; appropriation (**SF2626-Housley**)

Senate Education Policy & Finance Committee bills under consideration:

- Pregnant and parenting pupils transportation to certain qualifying educational programs (**SF 340-Draheim**)
- Children's and parent's mental health provisions modified (**SF 1437-Mathews**)
- Education partnership program modification and appropriation (**SF 939-Nelson**)

- Licensure requirement provisions technical changes made **(SF 1499-Cwodziński)**
- Parent-child home program funding provided, and money appropriated **(SF 1647-Anderson, P.)**
- Prekindergarten through grade 12 education policy changes made including general education, education excellence, nutrition, and facilities; and reports required **(SF 2116-Nelson)**
- Governor's Education Bill **(SF 2347-Nelson)**
- Community education revenue program funding increase **(SF 292-Latz)**
- School districts authorized to transfer community education reserve funds **(SF 871-Dziedzic)**
- 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)**
- Early learning scholarship age eligibility amended **(SF 1619-Eken)**
- Voluntary prekindergarten program participation limits increased **(SF 1831-Anderson, P.)**
- Modifying eligibility for early learning scholarships; expanding voluntary prekindergarten programs to five groups **(SF 1832-Anderson, P.)**
- Early childhood program eligibility modification **(SF 2180-Marty)**

Senate Health and Human Services Policy & Finance Committee bills under consideration:

- 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-Relph)**
- Statewide parent-to-parent programs for families of children and youth with special health care needs funding provided and money appropriated **(SF 215-Hoffman)**
- Human services block grant program establishment **(SF 794-Abeler)**
- Early learning scholarships eligibility modified **(SF 1367-Housley)**
- Child care assistance program eligibility restrictions extended **(SF 1845-Jasinski)**
- Child care centers required to provide proof of surety bond coverage **(SF 1846-Jasinski)**
- Retaining early educators through attaining incentives now (REETAIN) grant program established **(SF 2363-Draheim)**
- Commissioner of education authorized to increase early learning scholarship amounts, early childhood professional development funding provided, and money appropriated. **(SF 2565-Nelson)**
- Housing, health care, chemical and mental health, older adults continuing care, operations, direct care and treatment, child and family services, and disability services policy provisions modified. (Governor's Policy Bill). **(SF 2570-Abeler)**

House and Senate Higher Education Policy and Finance Committee bills under consideration:

- 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)**

House and Senate Tax Finance and Policy Committee bills under consideration:

- Child care facilities property tax exemption provided **(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**)
- Working family tax credit calculation modified (**HF 1795-Brand**)
- Working family tax credit calculation modified (**HF 1825-Loeffler**)
- Governor's Tax Bill (**HF 2125-Marquart**)
- Individual income tax education expense credit and deduction application to prekindergarten expenses (**SF 1573-Anderson, P.**)

House and Senate Judiciary and Civil Law bills under consideration:

- 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**)

House and Senate Capital Investment bills under consideration:

- Greater Minnesota child care facility capital grant program bond issue and appropriation (**HF 423-Brand**)

COMMITTEE DEADLINES

- **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