



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE | March 10, 2020

Welcome to the Care Aware Legislative Update. This narrative update, along with our Bill Tracker, will be posted on the [Child Care Aware of Minnesota website](#) each Tuesday (reflecting activity through the previous Friday).

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 first **child care bills** to receive hearings in the both the House and Senate which were sent to the General Register (House) or General Orders (Senate) and now await floor action. There was also the passage of the first major bill related to our field – **Paid Family and Medical Leave Act** (HF 5-Halverson) – on House Floor, which **passed on a vote of 70-59**.

Finally, the House Education Committees jointly held a day-long summit on “**Bridging the Gap - Eliminating racial disparities in education so children can reach their full potential,**” which included several presentations that either directly focused on or included aspects of early childhood education.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

The House Early Childhood Division met once last week to take up the following bills:

- **HF 3222** (Becker-Finn) State Building Code; baby diaper changing station. ***This bill was re-referred to the Jobs and Economic Development Finance Division.***
- **HF3173** (Wazlawik) Child care agencies; county agencies required to publish and distribute information about variances. ***This bill was passed and sent to the General Register.***
- **HF3822** (Wazlawik) Child care; personal liability exemption established for family day care inspectors. ***This bill was re-referred to the Judiciary Committee.***
- **HF3884** (Wazlawik) Child care services provider definition modified, and child care services grant provisions modified. ***This bill was passed and sent to the General Register.***
- **HF3737** (Pryor) Human services hearing procedures, crimes, background studies, and licensure requirements provisions modified. ***This bill was laid over.***

The House Health and Human Services Finance Division brought back up the HHS provisions of **HF 1** (Pinto) Additional funding and opportunities for children ages birth to three, programs and funding for prenatal care services, home visiting, early childhood education, and child care assistance. ***This bill was re-referred to Ways and Means.***

The House Education Policy Committee heard **HF 1116** (Lee) Licensure requirement provisions technical changes made. ***This bill was amended and sent to General Register.***

The House Capital Investment Committee heard two bills related to early childhood bonding requests, ***both of which were laid over:***

- **HF 3497** (Brand) Greater Minnesota child care facility capital grant program established, and funding provided, bonds issues, and money appropriated. \$10 million cash/\$10 million bonds.
- **HF 3112** (Torkelson) Wabasso, early childhood learning center funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated.

The House Labor Committee took up **HF 3073** (Moran)-Pregnancy and parenting leave incumbency requirement modified. ***This bill was amended and re-referred to Jobs and Economic Development Finance Division.***

The Senate Committee on Family Care and Aging took up the following bills:

- **S.F. 3292** (Utke) Group family day care child-adult capacity ratios and age distribution restrictions modification. ***This bill was passed and sent to General Orders.***
- **S.F. 3197** (Kiffmeyer) Family child care licensing variances county agency publication and information distribution requirement. ***This bill was passed as amended and sent to General Orders.***
- **S.F. 977** (Kiffmeyer) Family child care centers child injury and illness health plan coverage requirement. ***This bill was passed as amended and referred to Commerce Committee.***
- **S.F. 981** (Kiffmeyer) Day care providers insurance policies provisions modifications. ***This bill was passed as amended and referred to Commerce Committee.***
- **S.F. 3698** (Kiffmeyer) Family day care inspectors personal liability exemption establishment; county liability exception removal; uniform family child care variance application use by counties and issuance requirements. ***This bill was passed as amended and re-referred to Judiciary.***

The Senate Committee on Human Services Reform Finance and Policy took up **S.F. 3473** (Relph) Children with disabilities child care access expansion grants. ***This bill was laid over.***

To find out about any other upcoming hearings, visit the Minnesota State Legislature's [Combined Legislative Meeting Calendar](#). To see the committees that are served by your legislators, view the [House Committee Roster](#) and [Senate Committee Roster](#).

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 6, 2020** (this list does *not* include introduced last session, but they can be found on the bill tracker if they have received hearings). **New bills are highlighted in yellow.**

Overall Early Care and Education bills

- Early childhood: children ages birth to three additional funding and opportunities created; home visiting, early childhood education, and child care assistance programs governed; and money appropriated (**HF 1-Kotyza-Witthuhn**)

- Early learning and child care provisions to require kindergarten readiness assessment and quality rating and improvement system evaluation modifications (**SF 3606-Nelson**)

Child Care /HHS bills

- Child care agencies-county agencies required to publish and distribute information about variances (**HF 3173-Wazlawik/SF 3197-Kiffmeyer**)
- Human services provisions modified regarding children and family services, community supports, older adult continuing care, and health care; criminal penalties established (**HF 3390-Moran**)
- Child care assistance funding priorities for eligible families modification and allocation of funds adjustment (**HF 3672-Noor/SF 3402-Hayden**)
- Family day care training hour requirements applicability modification (**HF 3709-Wazlawik/SF 3274-Kiffmeyer**)
- Human services hearing procedures, crimes, background studies, and licensure requirements provisions modified (**HF 3737-Pryor/HF 4070-Kiffmeyer**)
- Child care: personal liability exemption established, county liability modified, and uniform family child care variance application use required (**HF 3822-Wazlawik/SF 3698-Kiffmeyer**)
- Child care provider definition modification; child care services grants provisions modification (**HF 3884-Wazlawik/SF 3799-Housley**)
- Group family day care child-adult capacity ratios and age distribution restrictions modification (**HF 3899-Grossell/SF 3292-Utke**)
- Basic sliding fee child care assistance program forecast by Minnesota management and budget (MMB) commissioner requirement and appropriation (**SF 3241-Wiklund**)
- Child care assistance provider reimbursement rates modification (**SF 3608-Hayden**)
- Child care assistance program providers proof of surety bond coverage requirement; unspent human services grant funding by counties and tribes reallocation authorization; qualified professionals supervising personal care assistants enrollment requirement; reporting requirement (**SF 3703-Abeler**)
- Ramsey County; day school payment for child care assistance overpayment funding provided, and money appropriated (**HF 4130-Pinto/SF 4216-Cohen**)
- Child care assistance provider reimbursement rates modification (**SF 3833-Housley**)

E-12 Education bills

- Prekindergarten through grade 12; policy and technical changes made to provisions including general education, schools, teachers, definitions, and timelines; and reports required (**HF 3186-Youakim/SF 3393-Clausen**)
- Increase Teachers of Color Act strengthened, increase in percentage of teachers of color and American Indian teachers sought, reports required, and money appropriated (**HF 3201-Kunesh-Podein/SF 4166-Abeler**)
- A bill for an act relating to education; limiting the use of individual-use screens in preschool and kindergarten (**HF 3504- Morrison/SF 3310-Cwodzinski**)
- Early learning scholarships appropriation (**SF 3313-Nelson**)
- Early learning provision policy and technical changes made (**HF 3902-Pinto**)
- Grow Your Own teachers grant regional program created, and money appropriated (**HF 3965-Poston/SF 4189-Eichorn**)
- Grow Your Own teachers regional grant program created, and money appropriated (**HF 4054-Sandstede/SF 4188-Eichorn**)
- After-school community learning programs modified and program grants provided, and money appropriated (**HF 4127-Lee**)
- Grow Your Own teachers regional grant program created, and money appropriated (**HF 4142-Persell/SF 4190-Johnson**)

- Increase Teachers of Color Act in higher education strengthened, and student teacher grants and teacher shortage loan forgiveness provisions modified (**HF 4157-Noor/SF 4041-Abeler**)

Family/Parenting support bills

- Pregnancy and parenting leave incumbency requirement modified (**HF 3073-Moran**)
- State Building Code: baby diaper changing station installation in public restrooms required (**HF 3222-Becker-Finn/SF 3686-Little**)
- Commission on Fatherhood created, annual report on family relationship and economic stability issues required, and money appropriated (**HF 3301-Erickson/SF 3383-Mathews**)

Bonding bills

- Wabasso; early childhood learning center funding provided, bonds issued, and money appropriated. (**HF 3112-Torkelson/SF 2930-Dahms**)
- A bill for an act relating to capital investment; appropriating money for and establishing the greater Minnesota child care facility capital grant program (**HF 3497-Brand/SF 3429-Housley**)
- A bill for an act relating to capital investment; appropriating money for a family and child services building for the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians (**HF 3510-Grossell/SF 3615-Utke**)
- Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians family and child services building funding provided, and money appropriated (**HF 4158-Becker-Finn**)

Other bills

- Birth to Age 8 Pilot Project Modified (**HF 3311 Richardson/SF 3061 Abeler**)
- Income and asset exclusion expiration date extended for public assistance program eligibility as part of the income and child development in the first three year of life demonstration project (**HF 3678-Bahner/SF 3579-Marty**)
- Children with disabilities child care access expansion grants (**HF 3693-Mann/SF 3473-Relph**)
- Refundable tax credit for qualified child care professionals established (**HF 3896-Pryor/SF 3732-Anderson, P.**)
- Family, friend, and neighbor child care grant program funding established, and money appropriated (**HF 3939-Howard**)
- Head Start funding allocation modified, and money appropriated (**HF 3954-Koegel**)
- Legislative working group on early childhood programs establishment (**SF 3827-Wiger**)
- Quality public education for all children provided as a fundamental right, and constitutional amendment proposed (**HF 4160-Kresha**)

COMMITTEE DEADLINES

- **Friday, March 20, 2020:** Committees must act favorably on bills in the house of origin
- **Friday, March 27, 2020:** Committees must act favorably on bills, or companion bills, that met the first deadline
- **Friday, April 3, 2020:** Committees must act favorably on major appropriation and finance bills

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Monday, March 23:** Governor's State of the State address at 7:00 p.m.
- **Thursday, March 26:** Advocacy for Children Day
- **Saturday, April 4 – Monday, April 13:** Legislative recess
- The Legislature must complete its work by **Monday, May 18, 2020**