



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE, February 16, 2021

Welcome to the fifth Child Care Aware Legislative Update of the 2021 Legislative session. 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

As expected, the pace of bill hearings picked up this week with several bills heard in committee and re-referred to additional committees with shared jurisdiction or laid over for possible inclusion in the committee's omnibus bill.

Bills reflecting the Governor's proposed change items were introduced this week on the floor and will likely begin the hearing process in the next week or two.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITY February 8-12

The following committees discussed these early care and education/school age care issues during the week of Feb. 8-12:

House Early Childhood Finance and Policy Committee- Presentations on Child Care Regulation, Licensing, and Child Care Assistance Program Integrity Measures and on selected Early Childhood Programs at the Minnesota Department of Education

House Workforce and Business Development Finance and Policy Committee

- **HF 413** (Olson, L) Minnesota Initiative Foundation funding provided for childcare. ***Passed and referred to Early Childhood Finance and Policy***
- **HF 610** (Noor) FATHER Project grant. ***Laid over for possible inclusion.***

House Education Policy Committee

- **HF 505** (Lee) Community Education teacher continuing contract and tenure status provisions modified. ***Laid over for possible inclusion.***

House Education Finance Committee

- **HF 156** (Wolgamott) Education partnership program modified; Tier 3 grants defined. *Laid over for possible consideration.*

House Health Finance and Policy Committee

- **HF 660** (Richardson) Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act. *Referred to Judiciary and Civil Law*

Senate Human Services Licensing Committee

- **SF 496** (Utke) COVID-19 executive orders human services programs background study requirements modifications waiver extension. *Referred to Civil Law and Data Practices Committee*

BILL INTRODUCTIONS

This list includes topics, numbers, authors, and general committee referrals for bills introduced during the week of **February 8-12**. For more information about each bill, or to see all of the bills introduced, please download our weekly [Bill Tracker](#).

- Municipal officers or employee's personal child care providers licensing liability exemption modifications (**HF 865-Wazlawik/SF 518-Kiffmeyer**)
- Child care providers administrative law procedures modification (**HF 866-Wazlawik/SF 517 Kiffmeyer**)
- School readiness plus program continued (**HF 871-Bernardy**)
- Early childhood program participation required by children in foster care (**HF 910-Kotyza-Witthuhn**)
- Head Start appropriation distribution modified, and money appropriated (**HF 911-Kotyza-Witthuhn**)
- Prekindergarten through 12th grade education funding provided including general education, education excellence, health and well-being, nutrition, libraries, early childhood, and post-secondary enrollment options and graduation (**HF 950-Richardson/SF 788 Chamberlain**)
- Office of Higher Education, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, University of Minnesota, and the Mayo Clinic funding and policy changes provided; student aid programs modified; direct admission pilot program created (**HF 993 Bernardy/SF 975-Tomassoni**)
- Working tax credit eligibility expanded (**HF 1022-Gomez**)
- Department of Early Childhood established, and rulemaking authorized (**HF 1024-Pinto**)
- Intensive in-home children's mental health stabilization and support services established, and commissioner of human services instructed to identify existing and emerging federal matching funds for intensive children's mental health services and supports (**HF 1025-Morrison**)
- Child care center regulation modernization project established, report required, and money appropriated (**HF 1036-Wazlawik**)
- Children and family services, community supports, direct care and treatment, health care, human service licensing and background studies, and chemical and mental health service provisions modified; forecast adjustments made; reports required; money transferred; technical and conforming changes made (**HF 1040-Schultz/SF 982-Wiklund**)
- Increase Teachers of Color Act in higher education strengthened, and student teacher grants and teacher shortage loan forgiveness provisions modified (**HF 1041-Keeler/SF 797-Abeler**)
- Prekindergarten through grade 12 education program legislative grant evidence-based standard established, and report required (**HF 1057-Bennett/SF 987-Dornink**)
- Summer education program funding provided, and money appropriated (**HF 1064-Davnie/SF 973-Chamberlain**)

- Prekindergarten through grade 12 education funding provided; general education, education excellence, teachers, special education, facilities, nutrition and libraries, early childhood, community education, and state agency provisions modified (**HF 1065-Davnie/SF 960-Chamberlain**)
- Department of education early learning scholarship appropriations (**SF 705-Nelson**)
- ParentChild+ program funding (HF 617-Youakim/**SF 706-Nelson**)
- Education partnership program modified, Tier 3 grants defined, and money appropriated (HF 156-Wolgamott/**SF 707-Nelson**)
- Child care assistance program disqualification for child care providers that rely upon representations of compliance prohibition (**SF 795-Murphy**)
- Ramsey County day school child care assistance overpayment appropriation authorization (**SF 796-Murphy**)
- After-school community learning programs modified (HF 786-Lee/**SF 821-Eichorn**)
- Group family day care child-adult capacity ratios and age distribution restrictions modifications (**SF 827-Utke**)
- Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act established, anti-racism training and implicit bias continuing education required, commissioner of health maternal death studies expanded to include maternal morbidity (HF 660-Richardson/ **SF 877-Torres Ray**)
- Minnesota Initiative Foundation funding provided, and money appropriated (HF 413-Olson/ **SF 929-Nelson**)
- Children's mental health grants eligible services modification and appropriation (**SF 933-Nelson**)
- Individual income tax child care professional supply and retention credit; appropriation (**SF 934-Nelson**)

COMMITTEE DEADLINES

- **Friday, March 12** — Committees must act favorably on bills in the house of origin.
- **Friday, March 19** — Committees must act favorably on bills, or companions of bills, that met the first deadline in the other body.
- **Friday, April 9** — Committees must act favorably on major appropriation and finance bills.