



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE, March 2, 2021

Welcome to the seventh 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

Some good news arrived on Friday, February 26th in the form of the **February Budget Forecast** which showed that Minnesota no longer has an anticipated shortfall for FY 2022-23 and is now projecting a **positive balance of \$1.6 billion** because of a higher revenue forecast, lower state spending, and an increased surplus for the current fiscal year. However, improvements to the economic outlook have not been spread equally, as unemployment continues to disproportionately impact lower-wage workers.

The next steps will be a likely revision of the Governor's Budget, and the provision of "spending targets" for each of the Finance Committees which will guide the creation of their Omnibus Finance Bills.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

The following committees discussed these early care and education/school age care issues during the week of Feb. 22-26:

House Early Childhood Finance and Policy Committee

- **HF 316** (Howard) Family, friend, and neighbor child care grant program established; report required; and money appropriated. ***Laid over for possible inclusion***
- **HF 260** (Wazlawik) Retaining early educators through attaining incentives now grant program established, reports required, and money appropriated. ***Passed and re-referred to Workforce and Business Development Committee***
- **HF 411** (Olson, L) Greater Minnesota child care facility program funding provided, and money appropriated. ***Passed and re-referred to Workforce and Business Development Committee***

- **HF 412** (Olson, L) Child care provider grant to increase numbers funding provide, reports required, and money appropriated. ***Passed and re-referred to Workforce & Business Development Committee***
- **HF 413** (Olson, L) Minnesota Initiative Foundation funding provided, and money appropriated. ***Laid over for possible inclusion.***
- **HF 711** (Sandell) Teacher licensure requirement for early education programs established. ***Passed and re-referred to General Register***
- **HF 1125** (Pryor) Refundable tax credit established for qualified child care professionals. ***Passed and re-referred to Taxes***

House Education Finance Committee

- **HF 1024** (Pinto) Department of Early Childhood established, and rulemaking authorized ***Referred as amended to Human Services Finance & Policy***
- **HF 786** (Lee) After-school community learning programs modified, report required, and money appropriated. ***Laid over for possible inclusion***
- **HF 1065** (Davnie) 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; reports required; and money appropriated. ***Laid over for possible inclusion***

House Education Policy Committee

- **HF 950** (Richardson) **Minnesota Department of Education Policy Bill**
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; technical corrections made; and reports required. ***Laid over for possible inclusion***

House Health Finance and Policy Committee

- **HF 1268** (Richardson) Healthy development of babies during pregnancy and postpartum grant for black, indigenous, or people of color families funding provided; and money appropriated. ***Laid over for possible inclusion***

House Human Services Finance and Policy Committee

- **HF 1026** (Morrison) Prenatal substance use reporting requirements modified. ***Laid over for possible inclusion***
- **HF1024** (Pinto) Department of Early Childhood established, and rulemaking authorized. ***Laid over for possible inclusion***

Senate Education Finance and Policy Committee

- **SF 707** (Nelson) Education partnership program modification; coalition fund tier grants appropriations. ***Laid over for possible inclusion***

- **SF 987** (Dornink) Legislative grant for prekindergarten through grade 12 educational programs evidence based standard establishment. ***Laid over for possible inclusion***
- **SF 446** (Abler) Increase Teachers of Color Act strengthened, teachers of color and American Indian teachers in Minnesota percentage increase sought ***Laid over for possible inclusion***
- **SF 526** (Koran)- Black Men Teach ***Laid over for consideration***

Senate Health and Human Services Finance

- **S.F. 1182** (Benson) Prenatal substance use reporting requirements modifications. ***Passed as amended and re-referred to Civil Law***

Senate Human Services Reform Finance and Policy Committee

- **SF 1013** (Housley) Child care assistance and child care provider provisions modifications. ***Laid over for potential inclusion***

Senate State Government Finance Committee

- **SF 297** (Abeler) Human Services Background Study Disqualification Review Task Force establishment and appropriation ***Passed as amended and re-referred to Rules Committee***

Senate Civil Law Committee

- **SF 496 (Utke)** COVID-19 executive orders human services programs background study requirements modifications waiver extension. ***Passed as amended, re-referred to Human Services Reform and Finance***

Senate Jobs and Economic Growth Committee

- **SF 1098** (Prat) Governor's Economic Development Bill ***Overview of Governor's bill (no action taken)***

BILL INTRODUCTIONS

This list includes topics, numbers, authors, and general committee referrals for bills introduced during the week of February 22-26. For more information about each bill, or to see all of the bills introduced, please download our weekly [Bill Tracker](#).

- Reach Out and Read Minnesota grant program funding provided (**HF 1384-Kotyza-Witthuhn**)
- Child care assistance and child care provider provisions modifications (**HF 1466-Pryor/SF 1013 Housley**)
- Child care assistance funding priorities modified for eligible families, and allocation of funds adjusted (**HF 1467-Pryor**)
- Older adult continuing care, children and family services, community supports, health care and licensing and background studies policies modified; and technical and conforming changes made (**HF 1510-Schultz/SF 1414-Benson**)
- Workforce development and scholarships clarified and expanded (**HF 1519-Haley/SF 1301-Tomassoni**)
- Kindergarten readiness assessment modified, report required, and money appropriated (**HF 1568-Kotyza-Witthuhn**)

- Licensed family child care provider funding provided to establish a peer mentoring program, reports required, and money appropriated (**HF 1652-Wazlawik**)
- Pregnant women and family home visiting program established, and money appropriated (HF 1197-Bahner/**SF 1360-Coleman**)

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, April 14 – Advocacy for Children Day Virtual Rally, 12:00 p.m. - 12:45p.m. [Register at this link.](#)