



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE, March 9, 2021

Welcome to the eighth 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 action that has been taken at the committee level or on the floor, a brief overview of bills that have been introduced, 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

With one week to go before the first committee deadline, the pace continued to quicken for committee hearings last week. Bills that do not receive a first hearing in at least one body by March 12 will most likely not move forward this session (although they may show up as amendments to other bills or on the floor).

COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

The following committees discussed these early care and education/school age care issues during the week of March 1 5:

House Early Childhood Finance and Policy Committee

- **HF 1278 (Boldon)** Early care and education affordability and workforce compensation established, report required, and money appropriated. *Laid over for consideration*
- **HF 1384 (Kotzya Witthuhn)** Reach Out and Read Minnesota grant program funding provided, and money appropriated. *Laid over for consideration*
- **HF 570 (Morrison)** Individual use screen use limited in preschool and kindergarten, and money appropriated. *Laid over for consideration*
- **HF 1467 (Pryor)** Child care assistance funding priorities modified for eligible families, and allocation of funds adjusted. *Laid over for consideration*
- **HF 1197 (Bahner)** Pregnant women and family home visiting program established, and money appropriated. *Passed and referred to Health Finance and Policy*
- **HF 617 (Youakim)** ParentChild+ program funding provided, and money appropriated. *Laid over for consideration*
- **HF 1466 (Pryor)** Child care assistance and child care provider provisions modified. *Sent to General orders*

- **HF 1036** (Wazlawik): Child care center regulation modernization project established, report required, and money appropriated. *Laid over for consideration*

House Education Finance Committee

- **HF 1057**(Bennett) Prekindergarten through grade 12 education program legislative grant evidence based standard established, and report required. *Laid over for consideration.*

House State Government Finance Committee

- HF 7 (Olson, L) Earned Safe and Sick Time Passed and sent to Judiciary Finance and Civil Law
- **HF 1200** (Richardson) Paid family, pregnancy, bonding, and applicant's serious medical condition benefits provided; employment leaves regulated and required; data classified; rulemaking authorized; and money appropriated. *Passed as amended and referred to Commerce Committee*

House Judiciary and Civil Law Committee

- **HF 660** (Richardson) Dignity in pregnancy and childbirth act. *Referred to Health Finance and Policy Committee.*

Senate Education Finance and Policy Committee

- **HF 706** (Nelson) Department of education ParentChild+ program appropriations. *Laid over for consideration.*

Senate Higher Education Finance and Policy Committee

- **SF 1301 (Tomassoni)** Workforce development scholarships clarification and expansion. (Transfer after 1 year, add \$4 million to bottom line, add local focus choices, construction?). *Laid over for consideration.*

Senate Human Services Reform Finance and Policy Committee

- **SF 1321 (Nelson)** Intensive in-home children's mental health stabilization and support services establishment; intensive children's mental health services emerging federal matching funds identification requirement. *Referred to Health and Human Services Committee*

BILL INTRODUCTIONS

This list includes topics, numbers, authors, and general committee referrals for bills introduced during the week of March 1-5. For more information about each bill, or to see all of the bills introduced, please download our weekly [Bill Tracker](#).

- Child care assistance rates modified, and commissioner of management and budget directed to forecast basic sliding fee child care assistance program (**HF 1747 Boldon/SF 1574 Wiklund**)
- Black Men Teach Twin Cities grant authorized to increase the number of black male teachers, report required, and money appropriated (**HF 1773 Frazier/SF 1685 Koran**)
- Human Services Background Study Disqualification Review Task Force establishment and appropriation (**HF 1825 Edelson/SF 297 Abeler**)

- Parent Aware; early childhood program quality rating and improvement system modified, and money appropriated (**HF 1876 Pryor**)
- Home visiting program funding provided for pregnant women and families, and money appropriated (**HF 1930 Bahner**)
- Child care provider grant to increase numbers funding provide, reports required, and money appropriated (HF 412 Olson, L./**SF 1043 Rarick**)
- School readiness plus program continued (HF 871 Bernardy/**SF 1549 Kunesh**)
- Teacher licensure requirement for early education programs established (HF 711 Sandell/**SF 1552 Abeler**)
- Licensed family child care provider funding provided to establish a peer mentoring program, reports required, and money appropriated (HF 1652 Wazlawik/**SF 1573 Wiklund**)
- Individual income tax educator expense credit establishment (HF 1317 Keeler/**SF 1577 Kunesh**)
- Educator expense credit established (HF 1316 Keeler/**SF 1578 Kunesh**)
- Commission on Fatherhood creation and appropriation (**SF 1607 Mathews**)
- Lake Crystal Little Lakers Day Care Center appropriation (**SF 1689 Rosen**)
- Child care for children with disabilities access expansion grants (HF 668 Wazlawik/**SF 1735 Housley**)
- Healthy development of babies during pregnancy and postpartum grant for black, indigenous, or people of color families funding provided; and money appropriated (HF 1268 Richardson/**SF 1744 Torres Ray**)
- Family Child Care Task Force recommendations implementation (**SF 1762 Kiffmeyer**)

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.
- Saturday, March 27 - Monday, April 5 — Easter/Passover break
- **Friday, April 9** — Committees must act favorably on major appropriation and finance bills.
- **May 17** — The Legislature must complete its work

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Thursday, March 11** – Early Childhood Legislative Briefing, 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. [Learn more and RSVP here](#)
- **Wednesday, April 14** – Advocacy for Children Day Virtual Rally, 12:00 p.m. - 12:45 p.m. [Register at this link](#)