



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE, March 16, 2021

Welcome to the ninth 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

We have reached the first committee deadline, which means that bills needed to have been heard in the relevant committee(s) in either the House or Senate in order to keep moving through the process. As of Friday afternoon, 77 bills related to early education met this deadline. You will find the list of hearings and bill actions from last week below, and all bills that have met this first deadline are highlighted on this week's bill tracker.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

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

House Early Childhood Finance and Policy Committee

- **HF 1747** (Baldon) Child care assistance rates modified, and commissioner of management and budget directed to forecast basic sliding fee child care assistance program. **Laid over for consideration**
- **HF 871** (Bernardy) School readiness plus program continued. **Laid over for consideration**
- **HF 1876** (Pryor) Parent Aware; early childhood program quality rating and improvement system modified, and money appropriated. **Laid over for consideration**
- **HF 1293** (Kotyza-Witthuhn) Early childhood learning scholarship funding provided, and money appropriated. **Laid over for consideration**
- **HF 911** (Kotyza-Witthuhn) Head Start appropriation distribution modified, and money appropriated. **Laid over for consideration**
- **HF 1568** (Kotyza-Witthuhn) Kindergarten readiness assessment modified, report required, and money appropriated. **Laid over for consideration**

House Education Policy Committee

- **HF 1081** (Richardson) Commissioner of education reporting requirements clarified, and obsolete language removed. *Referred as amended to the Education Finance Committee.*

House Human Services Finance and Policy

- **HF 821** (Koegel) Unused dependent care flexible spending account fund carryover required in benefit plan years 2020 and 2021. *Laid over for consideration*
- **HF1200** (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. *Referred to Labor, Industry, Veterans, and Military Affairs*

House Workforce and Business Development Committee

- **HF 260** (Wazlawik) Retaining early educators through attaining incentives now grant program established *Referred to Early Childhood Finance and Policy*
- **HF 411** (Olson) Greater Minnesota child care facility program funding provided, and money appropriated. *Laid over for consideration*
- **HF 412** (Olson) Child care provider grant to increase numbers funding provide, reports required, and money appropriated. *Laid over for consideration*

House Judiciary and Civil Law Committee

- **HF 7** (Olson) Earned Sick and Safe Time. *Referred to Ways and Means*

House Commerce Committee

- **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. *Referred to Human services Finance & Policy.*

Senate Human Services Licensing Committee

- **SF 1762-** (Kiffmeyer)- Family Child Care Task Force recommendations implementation. *Referred to State Government Finance*

Senate Human Services Reform Finance and Policy Committee

- **SF 21 (Howe)** Office of Ombudsperson for Child Care Providers creation and appropriation. *Referred to State Government*

Senate Health and Human Services Committee

- **SF 735 (Wiklund)-** Medical assistance postpartum coverage extended
- **SF 1360 (Coleman)** Pregnant women and families home visiting program establishment. *Laid over*

Senate Jobs and Economic Growth Committee

- **SF 1689 (Rosen)** Lake Crystal Little Lakers Day Care Center appropriation. *Laid over for consideration*
- **SF 1169 (Weber)** Greater Minnesota child care facility program appropriation. *Laid over for consideration*
- **SF 929 (Nelson)** Minnesota Initiative Foundations appropriation. *Laid over for consideration*

- **SF 465 (Wiklund)** Department of Employment and Economic Development Child Care Business Development appropriation. *Laid over for consideration*
- **SF 1043 (SF Rarick)** Quality child care providers appropriation. *Laid over for consideration*

Senate Tax Committee

- **SF 1577 (Kunesh)**- Individual income tax educator expense credit establishment. *Laid over for consideration.*

BILL INTRODUCTIONS

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

- Family Child Care Task Force recommendations implementation (**HF 2003-Wazlawik/SF 1762-Kiffmeyer**)
- Working family tax credit eligibility modified (**HF 2006-Her**)
- Day care providers insurance policies provisions modifications (**HF 2042-Demuth/SF 150-Kiffmeyer**)
- Department of Human Services fiscal year 2021 forecasted childcare assistance program appropriations adjusted (**HF 2112-Pinto**)
- Children and family services, community supports, direct care and treatment, and chemical and mental health services provisions modified; forecast adjustments (**HF 2127-Schultz/SF 2115-Wiklund**)
- Health care, human services, and licensing and background study provisions modified; health and human services budget established; technical and conforming changes made; money transferred; and money appropriated (**HF 2128-Liebling**)
- Commission on Fatherhood creation and appropriation (**HF 2158-Lucero/SF 1607-Mathews**)
- K-12 education expense credit modified (**HF 2171-Keeler/SF 570-Eichorn**)
- Early care and education affordability and workforce compensation established, report required, and money appropriated (**HF 1278-Boldon/SF 1814 Abeler**)
- Child care assistance program modified (**HF 1126-Pryor/SF 1956- Wiklund**)
- Child care assistance funding priorities modified for eligible families, and allocation of funds adjusted (**HF 1467-Pryor/SF 1980-Nelson**)
- Reach Out and Read Minnesota grant program funding provided, and money appropriated (**HF 1384-Kotzya-Witthuhn/SF 2000-Housley**)

COMMITTEE DEADLINES

- **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.
- **Monday, May 17** – The Legislature must complete its work.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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