



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE, March 23, 2021

Welcome to the tenth 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

Last week was highlighted by the arrival of the [Governor's supplemental budget](#), reflecting changes in response to the revised budget forecast released in February. These will begin to be heard in key committees in the coming week and will be highlighted in more detail in future updates. Last Friday also marked the second committee deadline, meaning that committees must have acted on bills that met the first deadline in the other body. You will find a list of bills that have met both deadlines 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 15-19:

House Early Childhood Finance and Policy Committee

- **HF 2003** (Wazlawik) Family Child Care Task Force recommendations implemented. **Laid over**
- **HF 61** (Demuth) Office of the Ombudsperson for Child Care Providers created, appointments provided, reports required, and money appropriated. **Referred to Judiciary & Civil Law**
- **HF 1652** (Wazlawik) Licensed family child care provider funding provided to establish a peer mentoring program, reports required, and money appropriated. **Laid over**
- **HF 5** (Pinto) COVID-19; state appropriations replaced with federal funds, child care providers public health support funds funding provided, basic sliding fee program funding provided, and money appropriated. **Referred to Ways and Means**
- **HF 2112** (Pinto) Department of Human Services fiscal year 2021 forecasted childcare assistance program appropriations adjusted. **Referred to Ways and Means**
- **HF 2230** (Pinto) **Governor's Early Childhood bill**. **Laid over**
- **HF 2203** (Davnie) Early learning scholarships program modified. **Laid over**
- **HF 2231** (Pinto) Early childhood family education obsolete language removed. **Sent to General Register**

House Education Finance Committee

- **HF 1081** (Richardson) Education policy bill. *Informational hearing only*

House Human Services Finance and Policy

- **HF 2136** (Richardson) Commissioner of human services directed to enter into contract with public-private African American community-driven partnership to support high-risk pregnant women integrated care grant program. *Laid over*

House Labor, Industry & Veteran's Affairs Committee

- **HF 1200** (Richardson) Paid family leave. *Re-referred to Health Finance and Policy*

House Health Finance and Policy

- **HF 1200** (Richardson) Paid family leave. *Re-referred to Judiciary Finance & Civil Law*

House Judiciary and Civil Law Committee

- **HF 1200** (Richardson) Paid family leave. *Re-referred to Workforce and Business Development Committee*

House Tax Committee

- **HF 1401** (Becker-Finn) Dependent care credit amount increased. *Laid over*

Senate Human Services Reform Finance and Policy Committee

- **SF 517** (Kiffmeyer) Child care providers administrative law procedures modification. *Laid over*
- **SF 1762** (Kiffmeyer) Family Child Care Task Force recommendations implementation. *Laid over*
- **SF 1185** (Coleman) Participation in early childhood programs by children in foster care report. *Laid over*
- **SF 1956** (Wiklund) Child care assistance program modification. *Laid over*
- **SF 827** (Utke) Group family day care child-adult capacity ratios and age distribution restrictions modifications. *Laid over*
- **SF 1735** (Housley) Child care for children with disabilities access expansion grants authorization and appropriation. *Laid over*

Senate Labor and Industry Committee

- **SF 1180** (Coleman) Pregnancy accommodations in employment settings expansion. *Re-referred to Jobs and Economic Growth Committee*

Senate Judiciary Committee

- **SF 1315** (Kiffmeyer) Pregnant and postpartum female inmates' placement in community-based programs authorization. *Passed and sent to General Orders*

Senate Tax Committee

- **SF 1777** (Nelson) Dependent care credit amount increased. *Laid over*
- **SF 570** (Eichorn) K-12 education expense credit modified. *Laid over*

Senate Health and Human Services Finance and Policy Committee

- **SF 1160** (Rosen) Health care service and consultation telehealth coverage modified. *Referred to State Government Finance and Policy and Elections*
- **SF 2050** (Rosen) Department of human services forecast adjustment. *Referred to Finance Committee*

BILL INTRODUCTIONS

This list includes topics, numbers, authors, and general committee referrals for bills introduced during the week of March 15-19. For more information about each bill, or to see all of the bills introduced, please download our weekly [Bill Tracker](#).

- Early learning scholarships program modified (**HF 2203-Davnie**)
- Early learning program changes made, and money appropriated (**HF 2230-Pinto**)
- Early childhood family education obsolete language removed (**HF 2231-Pinto**)
- Lake Crystal Little Lakers Day Care Center appropriation (**HF 2287-Munson/SF 1689-Rosen**)
- Joyce Preschool funding provided, and money appropriated (**HF 2443-Gomez/SF 2109-Franzen**)
- YWCA Minneapolis grant appropriation (**SF 2108-Franzen**)
- Working tax credit eligibility expanded (**HF 1022-Gomez/SF 2123-Dziedzic**)
- Department of Human Services fiscal year 2021 forecasted childcare assistance program appropriations adjusted (**HF 2112-Pinto/SF 2129-Abeler**)
- Child care assistance program fraud investigation department of human services transfer to the department of public safety (**HF 2217-Lucero/SF 175-Koran**)
- Workforce training and entrepreneurship investments intended to help close the state's opportunity gaps for Minnesotans of color appropriation (**SF 2150-Champion**)
- Kindergarten readiness assessment modified, report required, and money appropriated (**HF 1568-Kottyza-Withuhn/SF 2164-Duckworth**)
- Department of Early Childhood established, and rulemaking authorized (**HF 1024-Pinto/SF 2170-Nelson**)
- Parent Aware; early childhood program quality rating and improvement system modified, and money appropriated (**HF 1876-Pryor/SF 2174-Nelson**)

COMMITTEE DEADLINES

- **Friday, April 9** — Committees must act favorably on major appropriation and finance bills.
- **Monday, May 17** — The Legislature must complete its work.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Saturday, March 27-Monday, April 5** — Easter/Passover break
- **Wednesday, April 14** — Advocacy for Children Day Virtual Rally, 12:00 p.m. - 12:45 p.m. [Register at this link](#)