



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE- April 20, 2021

Welcome to the thirteenth 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's focus was on moving the House and Senate omnibus bills through the next level of approval and onto the General Register for floor votes.

We summarized the elements of the House Omnibus Early Childhood bill, the Senate Human Services bills, and the House and Senate Education bills in last week's update. This update will summarize the elements of the Omnibus House Health and Human Services bill, the Senate Health Bill, the House and Senate Workforce Development/Jobs bill, and the House and Senate Higher Education bills. Next week, we will round out the reporting with the Tax and Capital Investment/Bonding bills (which are still under development in the Senate).

FLOOR ACTIVITY

Now that the committee activity is wrapping up, we will shift covering any bills that have been heard or passed off the House and/or Senate floor (more details on all bills available on the [Bill Tracker](#)).

- **HF 1064** (Davnie)- Governor's Summer School Bill-Summer education program funding provided, and money appropriated. *3/23 Bill passed the House 69-63*
- **HF 7 (Olson)**- Earned sick and safe time provided, rulemaking authorized, civil penalties imposed, reports required, and money appropriated. *3/25 Bill passed the House 69-63*
- **SF 1315** (Kiffmeyer)-Pregnant and postpartum inmate placement in community-based program authorized, and reports required. *4/13 Bill passed the Senate 65-0*
- **SF 975** (Tomassoni)- Omnibus Higher Education bill. *4/14 Bill passed the Senate 38-29*
- **SF 1098** (Pratt)-Omnibus Jobs & Economic Development bill. *4/15 Bill passed the Senate 37-30*

HOUSE OMNIBUS HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BILL, HF 2128

Note: the Early Childhood elements from HF 2230, now incorporated in this HHS bill, were reported last week.

- Extends **MA coverage for pregnant women** from 60 to 180 days postpartum (6 months)
- Removes prenatal substance use **reporting requirement** for certain professionals providing prenatal, postpartum, and other health care services
- Clarifies the language related to a program providing **integrated care for high-risk pregnant women (ICHRP)** and provides funding
- Includes the “**Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act,**” requiring hospitals with obstetric care and birth centers to provide continuing education on anti-racism and implicit bias
- Allows an entity administering a children’s savings program to **access to certain birth records** otherwise classified as confidential to open an account in the program for the child
- Provides Grants for a **home visiting** programs for pregnant women and families with young children
- Amends a subdivision governing access to data for **maternal death studies** to specify that the commissioner has access to the names of providers, clinics, or other health services where care was received before, during, or related to the pregnancy or death
- Authorizes the commissioner of health to **conduct maternal morbidity studies** to help with planning for and evaluation of existing systems and to reduce preventable adverse maternal outcomes in the state
- Establishes requirements for the coverage of **telehealth** by health carriers

HOUSE HHS APPROPRIATIONS

(These are for change items in the upcoming 2-year biennium unless noted)

- \$6.3 million for expansion of MA coverage for pregnant women
- \$28.1 million for expansion of telehealth services
- \$1.6 million for expansion of ICHRP grants
- \$396,000 for maternal morbidity and death studies
- \$558,000 for the Supporting Healthy Babies grants
- \$2.6 million for the Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act
- \$5 million for increased home visiting grants

SENATE OMNIBUS HEALTH BILL, SF 2360

- Extends **MA coverage for pregnant women** from 60 to 180 days postpartum (6 months)
- Removes prenatal substance use **reporting requirement** for certain professionals providing prenatal, postpartum, and other health care services
- Ensures that **doula services**, training, and education are tailored to meet the needs of the groups with the most significant maternal and infant mortality and morbidity disparities
- Makes changes to the doula registry by permitting the commissioner to designate doula **certification organizations**
- Creates a **home visiting program** for pregnant women and families with young children

SENATE HEALTH APPROPRIATIONS

(These are for change items in the upcoming 2-year biennium unless noted)

- \$6.3 million for expansion of **MA coverage** for pregnant women
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HOUSE OMNIBUS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BILL, HF 1342

- Provides the substance of the new **family and medical leave** program
- Requires an employer with one or more employees to provide **nursing and lactating employees** with paid break time to express milk. Removes previous language allowing an employer to opt out if it would cause undue disruption
- Modifies definitions of “employee” and “employer” to **expand parenting and pregnancy leave** accommodations eligibility
- Establishes **earned sick and safe time** requirements for employees who work more than 80 hours a year for an employer; provides enforcement and penalty provisions for earned sick and safe time

HOUSE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS

(These are change items in the upcoming 2-year biennium unless noted)

- \$41.7 million for **Paid Family Medical Leave**
- \$10 million for local **Community Child Care grants** through DEED
- \$2 million for the **Minnesota Initiative Foundations (MIF) Child Care grant**

SENATE OMNIBUS JOBS & ECONOMIC GROWTH BILL-SF 1098

- Requires an employer with one or more employees to provide **nursing and lactating employees** with paid break time to express milk during the twelve months following the birth of the child
- Requires an employer with fifteen or more employees to provide **reasonable accommodations** for health conditions **related to pregnancy or childbirth**, to a requesting employee, unless the employer shows it would be an undue hardship

SENATE JOBS & ECONOMIC GROWTH APPROPRIATIONS

(These are for change items in the upcoming 2-year biennium unless noted)

- \$3 million for the **Minnesota Initiative Foundations (MIF) child care grant**
- \$200,000 for the **Little Lakers Child Care Center**
- \$1 million for the **Father Project**

HOUSE OMNIBUS HIGHER EDUCATION BILL- HF 993

- Removes the eligibility caps regarding enrollment for **child care grants**, and instead caps eligibility for those who have received grant funds over ten semesters and reduces the minimum enrollment requirement for grants for undergraduate **from six credits to one credit**
- Updates the terminology in existing law that extends child care grant eligibility for a student who withdraws from school due to an illness: changing “major illness” to “serious health condition” or in order to care for a spouse, child, or parent with a serious health condition
- Changes the **maximum annual child care grant award** for each eligible child to equal the applicant’s maximum federal Pell Grant award. Ties grant award amounts to the applicant’s expected family contribution under the federal needs analysis
- Establishes the **Aspiring Minnesota teachers of color scholarship program**, administered by the Office of Higher Education (OHE), for people of color and American Indians enrolled in a teacher preparation program. Eligible applicants must be enrolled in a teacher preparation program approved by PELSB and be seeking initial

licensure, or be enrolled in an eligible institute and be **completing a two-year program specifically designed to prepare early childhood educators**

- Creates a new grant program for student teachers who belong to a racial or ethnic group **underrepresented in the state's teacher workforce**

HOUSE HIGHER EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS

(These are for change items in the upcoming 2-year biennium unless noted)

- \$4.5m in teachers of color scholarship program
- \$4.9m in underrepresented teacher candidate grants

SENATE OMNIBUS HIGHER EDUCATION BILL-SF 975

- Removes the eligibility caps regarding enrollment for **child care grants**, and instead caps eligibility for those who have received grant funds over ten semesters and reduces the minimum enrollment requirement for grants for undergraduate **from six credits to one credit**
- Updates the terminology in existing law that extends child care grant eligibility for a student who withdraws from school due to an illness: changing "major illness" to "serious health condition" or in order to care for a spouse, child, or parent with a serious health condition
- Changes the maximum annual child care grant award for each eligible child to equal the applicant's maximum federal Pell Grant award; ties grant award amounts to the applicant's expected family contribution under the federal needs analysis
- Expands the **workforce scholarship program** (which currently includes early childhood) to add "construction" to the list of high-demand fields and expands the program to allow each institution to add one additional area of study based on a workforce shortage that is unique to the institution's specific region; clarifies eligibility for first and second-year scholarships and one-year transfer scholarships and increases overall funding

SENATE HIGHER EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS

(These are for change items in the upcoming 2-year biennium unless noted)

- \$4 million in additional funding for **workforce scholarships** (total of \$12 million including base funds)

BILL INTRODUCTIONS

This list includes topics, numbers, authors, and general committee referrals for bills introduced during the week of **April 12-16**. For more information about each bill, or to see all of the bills introduced, please download our weekly [Bill Tracker](#).

Note: The bill tracker has also been updated to reflect any bills that have been included, in whole or in part, in the omnibus bills (with the exception of the tax and bonding bills).

- Income and corporate franchise onetime tax subtraction for peacetime emergency child care grants (**SF 2407-Eken**)

COMMITTEE DEADLINES

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