LEGISLATIVE UPDATE- April 27, 2021

Welcome to the Child Care Aware Legislative update. 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 primarily on passing the House and Senate omnibus bills off of the floor. As of Friday, April 23rd, action was taking on both Education bills, both Workforce/Jobs bills, and both Higher Education bills. The Health and Human Services bills will be up in the House and Senate during the week of April 27th, with Tax and Bonding bills to follow.

We summarized the elements of the House Omnibus Early Childhood bill and the Senate Human Services bills and the House and Senate Education bills in the April 13 Legislative Update, and 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 in the April 23 Update. This week, we will round out this reporting with the elements in the proposed House and Senate tax bills, and the House capital investment/bonding bills. (The Senate bonding bill is still under development.)

COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

House Ways and Means Committee
- HF 991 (Marquart) House Tax bill, heard, recommended to pass, and sent to the House Floor

Senate Finance Committee
- SF 960 (Chamberlain) Omnibus Education Bill, heard, recommended to pass, and sent to the Senate Floor

Senate Tax Committee
- S.F. 383 (Abeler) Omnibus human services reform budget bill, amended and recommended to pass.
- S.F. 2360 (Benson) Omnibus health and human services policy and finance bill, amended and recommended to pass.
FLOOR ACTIVITY

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

- HF 993 (Bernardy) Omnibus Higher Education bill 4/19 Bill passed 74-59
- HF 1065 (Davnie) Omnibus E-12 bill 4/19 Bill passed 73-60
- HF 1342 (Noor) Omnibus Workforce Development bill 4/20 Bill passed 69-64
- HF 991 (Marquart) Omnibus Tax Bill 4/20 Bill passed 68-66
- SF 960 (Chamberlain) Omnibus E-12 bill 4/22 Bill passed 37-29

HOUSE OMNIBUS TAX BILL

- Working family credit; special earned income rules for tax year 2020. Allows taxpayers to claim the working family credit in tax year 2020 using the taxpayer’s 2019 earned income.
- Updates the definition of “qualifying child” for the credit to include qualifying children who do not qualify because they do not have a Social Security number.

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

- $10 million for Working Family Credit using 2019 earned income
- $19.6 million for Working Family Credit for those with Individual Taxpayer Identification Numbers (ITIN)

SENATE OMNIBUS TAX BILL

- Establishes a licensed in-home child care provider property tax credit. Requires the commissioner of revenue to reimburse each local taxing jurisdiction, other than school districts, for the tax reductions resulting from the credit.

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

- $10.3 million for In-Home Child Care Provider credit

HOUSE CAPITAL INVESTMENT/BONDING BILL

- Early Childhood Learning and Child Protection Facilities (DHS) - $10 million
- Greater Minnesota Child Care Facilities (DEED) - $5 million

BILL INTRODUCTIONS

There were no new early childhood-related bills during the week of April 19 – 23. For more information about bills introduced to date, or to see all of the bills introduced, please download our weekly Bill Tracker. 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 Senate bonding bills).

COMMITTEE DEADLINES

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