



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE | May 11, 2021

Welcome to the sixteenth 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

All Conference Committees continued to meet during the week of May 3–7. Because the House and Senate have not yet agreed on shared funding targets, the negotiations are limited to policy items without a fiscal impact. In the overview section below, any agreed-upon policy elements to date are highlighted.

### COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

#### Omnibus Bill Overviews and Committee Decisions as of May 7, 2021

**Agreed-upon language elements to date are highlighted in yellow**

#### **HF2128 Omnibus Health and Human Services Bill: Passed House 70-62, Passed Senate 39-28**

- House conferees: Liebling, Schultz, Gomez, Pinto, Schomacker
- Senate conferees: Benson, Abeler, Koran, Hoffman, Utke

**Early Childhood items under negotiation** (see April 13 and April 19 Legislative Updates for full list of elements):

- **Child Care Assistance** funding and policy (Senate includes transfer of funds for Early Learning Scholarships)
- Proposals from the **Family Child Care Task Force**, including licensing and regulation modifications
- Early education **workforce supports** including T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Scholarships & REETAIN Grants, child Care start up, revitalization and business support
- A competitive grant program to expand options for child care for **children with disabilities**
- Grants for **home visiting** programs for pregnant women and families with young children
- 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

**HF1065 – Omnibus Education Bill: Passed House 73-60, Passed Senate 37-29**

- House conferees: Davnie, Richardson, Pryor, Hassan, Kresha
- Senate conferees: Chamberlain, Eichorn, Duckworth, Dornink, Wiger

**Early Childhood items under negotiation** (see April 13, 2021 Legislative update for full list of elements):

- **Limit on screen time for children in preschool and kindergarten**-prohibits children in publicly funded preschools or kindergartens from using **an individual-use screen**, such as a tablet or smartphone, without engagement from a teacher or other student. Children who have an individualized education program (IEP) or individualized family service plan are not subject to the prohibition. **Adopted 5/6/21**
- **Evidence-based education grants**. Requires all preK-12 education grants awarded after July 1, 2022, to be awarded through a framework that encourages the goals of the grants to be aligned to Minnesota's world's best workforce and the federal government's student accountability systems **Adopted 5/6/21**
- Changes in eligibility for the **Early Learning Scholarships** and increased funding
- An evaluation of the **Parent Aware Rating** program and development of a racial equity plan
- Creation of the **Great Start for All Minnesota Children** Task Force to develop a plan for all families to have access to high-quality, affordable early care and education for children from birth up to age five
- Expansion of the **Grow Your Own** program, allowing programs including Head Start to apply for grants to support persons of color or American Indian persons to become licensed teachers or preschool teachers
- Changes in teacher licensure requirements for school-based Pre-K and VPK programs
- Requirement to implement the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment statewide

**SF1342 – Omnibus Jobs/Workforce Development Bill:**

- House conferees: Noor, Ecklund, Olson, Hamilton, Berg
- Senate conferees: Pratt, Rarick, Draheim, Housley, Eken

**Early Childhood Elements under consideration** (See April 19, 2021 Legislative update for full list of elements):

- **Minnesota Initiative Foundations (MIF) Child Care grants** and **Community Child Care grants** through DEED
- A new **family and medical leave** program
- Requirements to provide **nursing and lactating employees** with paid break time to express milk
- Changes to eligibility for **parenting and pregnancy leave** accommodations
- Establishment of **earned sick and safe time** requirements

**SF975 – Omnibus Higher Education Bill: Passed House 74-59, Passed Senate 38-29**

- House conferees: Bernardy, Keeler, Klevorn, O'Neill, Christensen
- Senate conferees: Tomassoni, Rarick, Goggin, Jasinski, Clausen

**Early Childhood Elements under consideration** (See April 19th, 2021 Legislative update for full list of elements):

- **Child Care Grant Eligibility**- Simplifies eligibility criteria and allows an additional semester of eligibility for students who provide care to spouse, child, or parent with a serious health condition. **Adopted 4/28**
- Establishment of the **Aspiring Minnesota teachers of color scholarship program** and a new **grant program** for student teachers who belong to a racial or ethnic group **underrepresented in the state's teacher workforce**
- Expansion of the **workforce scholarship program** (which currently includes early childhood) and increasing funding

**[HF991](#) – Omnibus Tax Bill: Passed House 68-66, Passed Senate 39-26**

- House conferees: Marquart, Youakim, Her, Lislegard, Davids
- Senate conferees: Nelson, Weber, Miller, Bakk, and Rest.

**Early Childhood Elements under consideration** (See April 26th, 2021 Legislative update for full list of elements):

- Changes to the **Working family credit including changing 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
- Establishment of a **licensed in-home child care provider property tax credit**

## **BILL INTRODUCTIONS**

There were no new early childhood-related bills introduced during the week of May 3-7.

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.