



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE | May 4, 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 on the final passage of the remaining Omnibus Bills in the House and Senate, and naming conference committee members. The Higher Education and Jobs/Workforce conference committees began their work, with the remaining conference committees expected to get underway the week of May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

This update will include a summary of all of the Omnibus Bills including the conferees from the House and Senate for each bill. We have also included a short recap of the main early care and education elements included in these bills.

### COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

#### Senate Finance Committee

- **SF 2360** (Benson) Omnibus health and human services policy and finance bill (reopened and amended due to an error). **Passed to General Orders**

### 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 2128** (Liebling) Omnibus Health and Human Services Bill. **4/26 Bill passed House 70-62**
- **HF 991** (Nelson) Omnibus Tax Bill. **4/28 Bill passed Senate 39-26**
- **SF 383** (Abeler) Omnibus Human Services Reform. **4/29 Bill passed Senate 47-20- Now combined with HF 2128**
- **HF 2128** (Benson) Omnibus Health and Human Services Bill. **4/29 bill passed Senate 39-28**

## OMNIBUS BILL OVERVIEWS

### HF 2128, [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 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

### HF 1065, [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):

- 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

### SF 975 [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):

- Changes to the **child care grants for college students**, including removal of the eligibility caps and increasing the maximum annual child care grant award
- 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

**HF 991, [Omnibus Tax Bill](#): Passed House 68-66; Passed Senate 39-26**

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

## **DEADLINES**

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