



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE February 28, 2022

Welcome to the Child Care Aware Legislative update. The updates from the full session, along with our Bill Trackers, can be found on the [Child Care Aware of Minnesota Website](#).

Each week we will provide a brief overview of bills that have been introduced, action that has been taken at the committee level or on the floor, 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

Two bills that could impact the early childhood field received floor votes last week. In the House, HF 2900 (Frazier) passed with a vote of 71-61. This bill calls for workers on the frontlines during the COVID-19 pandemic to receive up to \$1,500 each if their jobs put them at risk of contracting the virus during Minnesota's peacetime emergency. The bill appropriates \$1 billion for such payments. There has been no action taken yet on this bill in the Senate.

In the Senate, SF 2876 (Abeler) passed with a vote of 46-21. This bill allows the Commissioner of Human Services to reinstate waivers and modifications that were in place during the earlier Peacetime Emergency. This includes waivers that impact child care. The House bill is currently awaiting a hearing in the Ways and Means Committee.

### COMMITTEE ACTION

Here are the committee discussions that took place during the week of February 21-25, 2022:

- **The House Ways and Means Committee** heard HF 2900 (Frazier), a bill to authorize payments to frontline workers (including child care workers). The bill passed and was sent to the General Register.
- **The House Tax Committee** heard HF 3669 (Marquart), the Governor's Tax Bill. The bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.
- **The House Early Childhood Finance and Policy Committee** heard several bills last week, including:
  - HF2655 (Bernardy) to make voluntary prekindergarten and school readiness plus program expansion permanent. The bill passed and was referred to Education Finance Committee.
  - HF2660 (Kotyza-Witthuhn) to modify Head Start appropriation distribution. The bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.

- HF3272 (Kotzya-Witthuhn) to provide executive function curriculum expansion grant funding. The bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.
  - HF3169 (Olson, L.) to provide Greater Minnesota child care facility program funding. This was an informational hearing only.
- **The House Education Finance Committee** heard two bills:
    - HF 3587 (Vang) for full-service community school funding. The bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.
    - HF786 (Lee) to modify after-school community learning programs; report required, and money appropriated. The bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.
- **The House Preventing Homelessness Division** heard HF3661 (Keeler) on creating a study on pregnant and parenting homeless youth. The bill was re-referred to the Human Services Finance and Policy Committee.

## BILL INTRODUCTIONS

This list includes topics, numbers, authors, and general committee referrals for bills filed during the week of February 21-25. For more information about each bill or to see all of the bills introduced, please download [our weekly Bill Tracker](#).

- School-age care program child age range increased, school-age care program funding increased, and money appropriated (HF 3485-Pryor/SF 3488- Cwodziński)
- Community education programming funding increased, and money appropriated (HF 3596-Edelson/SF 3586- Coleman)
- Calculation of early childhood family education revenue modification; administrative costs money transfer authorization (HF 3622-Wolgamott/SF 3341-Housley)
- Vocational education grant funding provided, and money appropriated (HF 3641-Kresha/SF 3460-Dornink)
- Pregnant and parenting homeless youth study establishment and appropriation; homeless youth act grants appropriation (HF 3661-Keeler/SF 3263-Dibble)
- Child care regulations update provided (HF 3701-Pryor)
- Child care grant program funding provided, previous appropriation modified for child care work, and money appropriated (HF 3783-Olson, L./SF 3497-Rarick)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Thursday, March 10** - Early Childhood Legislative Virtual Briefing. [Register here](#)
- **Wednesday, March 16** - Advocacy for Children Day Virtual Rally. [Register here](#)

## TIMELINES

- **Friday, March 25** - Committees must act favorably on bills in the house of origin
- **Friday, April 1** - Committees must act favorably on bills, or companions of bills, that met the first deadline in the other body
- **Friday, April 8** - Committees must act favorably on major appropriation and finance bills
- **April 9-18** - Legislative Break
- **Monday, May 23** - Last day of session