



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE March 7, 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

The biggest news last week was the release of the February budget forecast. As reported by the state's Office of Management and Budget: "A forecast improvement of \$1.507 billion for the current biennium leads to a revised projected general fund surplus of \$9.253 billion for FY 2022-23. A higher income, consumer spending, and corporate profit forecast results in an improved revenue projection while spending is slightly lower in E-12 education and Health and Human Services. The revenue and spending forecast changes are mostly one-time and the structural balance in the FY 2024-25 planning estimates remains positive and largely unchanged from November."

### COMMITTEE ACTION

Here are the committee discussions that took place during the week of February 28-March 4, 2022:

- **The House Early Childhood Finance and Policy Committee** heard several bills last week, including:
  - HF3484 (Pryor), making permanent the temporary priorities for basic sliding fee child care. Laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.
  - HF3485 (Pryor), increasing the age range of children served by school-age care programs and increasing funding for school-age care programs. Laid over for further consideration.
  - HF3544 (Kotyza-Witthuhn) to provide Reach Out and Read Minnesota program grant funding. The bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.
  - HF3591 (Howard); family, friend, and neighbor caregivers grant program funding provided. This was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.
  - HF3622 (Wolgamott); early childhood family education revenue calculation modified, and administrative cost money transferred. Bill passed and was re-referred to the Education Finance Committee.

- HF3701 (Pryor); Child care regulations update provided. This was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.
- **The House Education Policy Committee** took up HF3401 (Richardson), the Governor’s E-12 Policy bill, which was laid over for possible inclusion in a Committee Omnibus bill.
- **The Senate Education Finance and Policy Committee** heard SF 3441 (Housley) for early childhood family education revenue modification and administrative costs money transfer authorization. The bill was approved and sent to the Finance Committee.

## BILL INTRODUCTIONS

This list includes topics, numbers, authors, and general committee referrals for bills filed during the week of February 28-March 4. For more information about each bill, or to see all of the bills introduced, please download [our weekly Bill Tracker](#).

- Child care; commissioner of human services required to award minimum base grant amount to eligible family and group family child care home and legal non-licensed child care providers (HF 2842-Quam/SF 3678-Dornink)
- Child care center and family child care provided allowed to adopt immunization policy (HF 3179-Freiberg/SF 3791-Klein)
- Early childhood; quality rating improvement system and early learning scholarship program changes made (HF 3806-Demuth)
- Quality Parenting Initiative funding provided (HF 3815-Moran/SF 3720-Torres-Ray)
- Direct support professionals child care relief grants established (HF 3859-Boldon)
- Child care assistance eligibility and co-payment requirements modified (HF 3861-Boldon)
- Higher education supplemental funding provided for the Office of Higher Education, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, and the University of Minnesota; financial aid programs amended (HF 3872-Bernardy/SF 3510-Tomassoni)
- Universal, voluntary home visiting program for families with infants established (HF 3886-Morrison/SF 3766-Wiklund)
- Minnesota baby steps home visiting program established, and money appropriated (HF 3887-Morrison)
- Increase Teachers of Color Act strengthened, supplemental financing provided for grants to underrepresented student teachers of color scholarship pilot program (HF 3917-Keeler/SF 3714-Rarick)
- Minneapolis; Parents in Community Action funding provided (HF 3928-Gomez/SF 3629-Fateh)
- Early childhood special education students made eligible for prekindergarten school breakfast reimbursement and English learner services (HF 3981-Koegel)
- Family child care providers base grant amount calculation modification (SF 3698- Kiffmeyer)
- Increase Teachers of Color Act modification (SF 3804-Abeler)
- Community solutions for healthy child development grant program establishment and appropriation (SF 3810-Kunesh)

## 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