



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE May 25, 2022

Preliminary End of Session Report

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

On Monday, May 16, with one week to go in the Legislative session, Governor Walz and House and Senate Leadership announced that they had reached a \$12 billion global agreement to divide the current surplus over three years. The agreement is as follows:

- \$4 billion in Tax Cuts
- \$4 billion in Spending (including \$1 billion in education, \$1 billion for health care and human services)
- \$4 billion left on the Bottom Line

In the past several years, leadership has come to a “global agreement” as a framework to complete the work for the session. The agreement is brought forward by the House Majority DFL, the Senate Republican Majority, and the Governor.

While some conference committee reports were completed and some received floor votes (see below), the House and Senate were unable to agree upon and process most of the bills related to early care and education/school-age care issues before the required adjournment deadline of Monday, May 23.

The Governor and Leadership met after the adjournment of both bodies to discuss the possibility of a special session to wrap up this work, but no decision has yet been reached. If a special session is not called, the remaining funds will fall to the bottom line to be available next year when the Legislature convenes to set the 2023-2025 biennial budget.

We will continue to track these discussions and publish a final report from this session once it is clear whether or not there will be a special session to finish this work.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE/FLOOR ACTIVITY

- The **Agriculture Conference Committee** completed its work and issued its report, using the original drought relief bill as its final vehicle. The bill was presented to the House and was passed on a vote of 70-62 and passed the Senate on a vote of 41-26. This bill will be sent to the Governor for final approval.
 - The conference committee report includes an increase in the overall funding source that supports the Farm to Child Care program.
- The **Health and Human Services Committee** reached an agreement on a policy-only bill brought forward to the House and Senate. Negotiations around funding elements of the bill were not completed. The bill passed the House on a vote of 68-65 and the Senate on a vote of 66-0. The bill will be sent to the Governor for final approval.
 - None of the child care policy language was included in this bill.
- The **Higher Education Conference Committee** completed its work and issued its report. The House passed the bill on a vote of 68-63. The Senate presented the bill, then “laid it on the table,” meaning that it did not come up for a vote on the Senate Floor.
 - The conference committee report includes more funding for the workforce development scholarships and the under-represented student teacher scholarships, both of which can include early childhood.
 - Funding for a new Student Parent Support Initiative is also included.
- The **Jobs and Economic Development Conference Committee** completed its work and issued its report. The bill was presented in the Senate but was laid on the table. The House did not take up the bill.
 - The conference committee report includes language allowing the Minnesota Initiative Foundations (MIFS) to sub-grant their current child care funding to partner organizations assisting in their work.
- The **Tax Conference Committee** completed its work, but the report was not brought forward to either the House or Senate Floor.
 - The agreement includes an increase in the child and dependent care tax credit.
- The Senate voted on the Education Forecast adjustments bill (SF 4116), which included language to address an oversight in the recently approved Frontline Worker bill that would result in Family Child Care Providers being ineligible for these payments. The bill passed the Senate on a vote of 66-0, but it was not taken up in the House.

BILL INTRODUCTIONS

This list includes topics, numbers, authors, and general committee referrals for bills filed during the week of May 16-20. For more information about each bill, or to see all of the bills introduced, please download [our weekly Bill Tracker](#).

- No new bills related to early care and education or school-age care were introduced this week.