



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE | FEBRUARY 14, 2023

Welcome to the latest 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

On February 1, the final report from the Great Start for All Minnesota Children Task Force was delivered to the Legislature. The legislation directed the Task Force to establish a plan and timeline to address the challenges in today's early care and education system. Embedded within the legislative charge are three key goals:

- Creating a system in which family costs for early care and education are affordable.
- Ensuring that a child's access to high-quality early care and education is not determined by the child's race, family income, or zip code.
- Ensuring that Minnesota's early childhood educators are qualified, diverse, supported, and equitably compensated regardless of setting.

The Task Force underwent an intentional process to center children and families from historically disenfranchised communities, work across diverse stakeholder perspectives, and build on previous work and successes achieved in Minnesota. Through this process, the Task Force created a vision for an early care and education system in Minnesota that provides all families with affordable, accessible, and effective early care and education services; operates as a sustainable system; and uplifts programs and the early care and education workforce.

To achieve its vision, the Task Force calls on leaders in Minnesota state government to align and commit to long-term investments in families, with no family paying more than 7% of their income for services, and a reimagined early care and education system, prioritizing historically disenfranchised communities. Detailed challenges of the current system and recommendations to address these challenges are included in [the full report](#).

The Task Force was directed by legislation to lay out a plan to achieve the legislative goals, including an implementation timeline running from July 2025 through July 2031. However, children, families, the early care and education workforce, employers, and whole communities need our action today. As such, the Task Force implores state leaders, organizations, and communities to act decisively and immediately to address the state's child care needs and set Minnesota on a stable

and sustainable path where all families have access to affordable, high-quality early care and education that enriches, nurtures, and supports children and their families.

COMMITTEE/FLOOR ACTIVITY

Here are the committee discussions that took place during the week of February 6-10:

- **The House Children and Families Committee** heard:
 - HF 874 (Kotzya-Witthuhn) – Head Start appropriation use and distribution methods modified, and money appropriated. The bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.
 - HF 1277 (Coulter) – Early learning scholarships program changes made, and money appropriated. The bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.
- **The House Health Finance & Policy Committee** heard:
 - HF 1059 (Richardson) – Grants supporting the healthy development of babies during pregnancy and postpartum for families with members who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color funding provided, and money appropriated. The bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.
 - HF 639 (Bahner) – Community solutions for healthy child development grant program established, and money appropriated. The bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.
- **The House Education Policy Committee** heard HF 1269 (Pryor) – the Governor’s Education Policy Bill. This was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.
- **The House Human Services Finance Committee** heard HF 564 (Bierman) – children's school-linked mental health grant funding provided. The bill passed as amended and was re-referred to the Education Finance Committee.
- **The House Ways and Means Committee** heard HF 13 (Pinto) – child care assistance rates modified. The bill passed as amended and was referred to the General Register.
- **The House Labor & Industry Committee** heard:
 - HF 2 (Richardson) – Paid Family Medical Leave program established. The bill passed as amended and was re-referred to State and Local Government
 - HF 1104 (Koegel) – Employer retaliation provisions modified, and pregnancy accommodations modified. The bill passed and was referred to the House Floor.
- **The House State and Local Government and Finance Committee** heard HF 2 (Richardson) – Paid Family Medical Leave program established. The bill passed and was re-referred to the Human Services Finance Committee.
- **The Senate Judiciary Committee** heard SF 2 (Mann) – paid family, pregnancy, bonding, and applicant's serious medical condition benefits establishment and appropriation. The bill passed as amended and was re-referred to the Human Services Committee.
- **Senate Health and Human Services Committee** heard SF 406 (Mann) – Pregnant patient right established to have a designated support person present while receiving health care. This passed as amended and was referred to the General Register.

BILL INTRODUCTIONS

The following bills were introduced during the week of February 6-10. For more information about bills introduced to date, or to see all of the bills introduced, please download our weekly [Bill Tracker](#).

- HF 570 (Kotzya-Witthuhn/SF 1270-Cwodiznski) – Providing grant funding for Reach Out and Read Minnesota program
- HF 1059 (Richardson/SF 1274-Maye-Quade) – Grants supporting the healthy development of babies during pregnancy and postpartum for families with members who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color
- HF 1269 (Pryor/SF 1311-Cwodzinski) – Governor’s Education Policy Bill
- HF 1277 (Coulter/SF 1276-Maye-Quade) – Early learning scholarships program changes made, and money appropriated
- HF 1369 (Kotzya-Witthuhn) – Individual income tax provisions modified, and temporary refundable young child credit established
- HF 1400 (Lee, K.) – Individual income tax provisions modified, and eligibility for working family credit expanded
- HF 1403 (Fischer) – Aging, disability, behavioral health, substance use disorder, housing, economic assistance, children and family services, health care
- SF 1329 (Champion) – Expanding the Learning with Music program to early childhood educators
- SF 1385 (Coleman) – Authorization for certain insurers to offer paid family leave insurance benefits
- SF 1409 (Champion) – FATHER Project grant appropriation

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **March 22** - Advocacy Day for Children

DEADLINES

- **Friday, March 10** - Committees must act favorably on bills in the house of origin
- **Friday, March 24** - Committees must act favorably on bills, or companions of bills, which met the first deadline in the other body
- **Tuesday, April 4 by 5 p.m.** - Committees must act favorably on major appropriation and finance bills
- **April 4-April 10** - Legislative Recess
- **Monday, May 22** - Last day of session