



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE | FEBRUARY 21, 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

The first bills related to child care of the session were heard and passed off the House Floor on Monday, February 13. These bills are:

- HF 150, which adds \$11 million for Child Care Stabilization Grants to continue at the current amount through June 2023, and \$40 million for Early Learning Scholarships so more children can have access right away. The bill passed on a vote of 70-60.
- HF 13, which increases the reimbursement rate for the CCAP program to the federally recommended 75th percentile, and permanently re-prioritizes the waiting list to better serve parents. The bill passed on a vote of 69-59.

The Senate companion bills to HF 150 (SF 53) and HF 13 (SF 14) are awaiting hearings in the Senate Finance Committee, which is the last stop in the process prior to a vote on the Senate Floor. We will keep you posted on their progress.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

Here are the committee discussions that took place during the week of February 13-17:

- **The House Children & Families Committee heard:**
 - HF 1071 (Keeler) – Minnesota Indian Family Preservation Act changes made. Referred to Judiciary Committee.
 - HF 177 (Hanson, J.) – Unearned income included in economic assistance program calculations modified. Laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.
- **The House Education Finance Committee** heard HF 320 (Hassan) – Teachers of Color Act strengthened, percentage of teachers of color and American Indian teachers in Minnesota increased, world's best workforce requirements amended. The bill was laid over for possible inclusion.

- **The House Health and Human Services Finance Committee** heard HF 2 (Richardson) – Paid family, pregnancy, bonding, and applicant's serious medical condition benefits provided. The Bill was passed and re-referred to the Commerce Committee.
- **The House Higher Education Committee** heard HF 381 (Kozlowski) – The Increase Teachers of Color Act in higher education strengthened, pilot scholarship program for aspiring teachers of color made permanent. The bill was laid over for possible inclusion.
- **The House Economic Development Finance & Policy Committee** heard:
 - HF 1074 (Brand) – The Minnesota Initiative Foundations funding provided. The bill was re-referred to Children and Families Finance & Policy committee.
 - HF 1180 (Brand) – Greater Minnesota care facility program funding provided. The bill was laid over for possible inclusion for inclusion in the omnibus bill.
 - SF 619 (Kunesh) – Teachers of Color Act modification and appropriation. The bill was laid over for possible inclusion for inclusion in the omnibus bill.
 - SF 1329 (Champion) – Learning with Music program to early childhood educators’ expansion. The bill was laid over for possible inclusion.
 - SF 1036 (Baldon) – Head Start appropriation use and distribution modification. The bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.
- **The Senate Health and Human Services Committee** heard:
 - SF 402 (Kunesh) – Community solutions establishment and appropriation for healthy child development grant. Passed as amended and referred to State and Local Government & Veteran’s Committee
 - SF 1270 (Cwodzinski) – Reach out and Read. Bill was re-referred to the Committee on State and Local Government and Veterans.
- **Senate Education Policy Committee** heard SF 1311 (Cwodinzki) – Education provisions modifications. Laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.

BILL INTRODUCTIONS

The following bills were introduced during the week of February 13-17. For more information about bills introduced to date, or to see all of the bills introduced, please download our weekly [Bill Tracker](#).

- HF 1070 (Pryor)/SF 1697 (Fateh) – Temporary priorities establishment as permanent for basic sliding fee child care
- HF 1074 (Brand)/SF 1611 (Putnam) – Minnesota Initiative Foundations funding provided, and money appropriated
- HF 1179 (Brand)/SF 1609 (Putnam) – Greater Minnesota child care facility program funding provided
- HF 1180 (Brand)/SF 1610 (Putnam) – Greater Minnesota care facility program funding provided, and money appropriated
- HF 1369 (Kotzya-Witthuhn)/SF 1754 (Pratt) – Individual income tax provisions modified, and temporary refundable young child credit established
- HF 1629 (Perez-Vega)/SF 1329 (Champion) – Learning with Music program to early childhood educators’ expansion and appropriation
- HF 1661 (Hicks)/SF 1639 (Kunesh) – Informal kinship caregiver support grant program established; financial support expanded for adoptive, foster, and kinship families; and money appropriated

- HF 1722 (Baker)/SF 463 (Coleman) – Tax credit creation for employer paid family leave
- HF 1672 (Hicks)/SF 1638 (Kunesh) – Quality Parenting Initiative funding provided, and money appropriated
- HF 1698 (Howard)/SF 1680 (Wiklund) – Family, friend, and neighbor child care grant program established; reports required; and money appropriated
- HF 1698 (Howard)/SF 1680 (Wiklund) – Property tax provisions modified, property tax credit for licensed in-home child care providers established, and money appropriated (HF 1702-Schomaker/SF 1551-Weber)
- HF 1806 (Clardy) – Assessment of school readiness required for children entering kindergarten
- SF 1600 (Putnam) – Working family income tax credit eligibility modification
- SF 1612 (Putnam) – Child care providers number increase appropriation
- SF 1719 (Putnam) – Education partnership program modification

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