



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE | March 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

Last week the “Great Start Act of 2023” was introduced and amended into HF 2471 (Pinto). This bill will begin to put many of the Great Start for All Minnesota Children Task Force recommendations into legislation. These recommendations address the need to revamp Minnesota’s child care system to address access for families, quality care for children, and compensation for the early education workforce. More information about these efforts can be found on the new [Great Start website](#).

This week, the Legislature is headed toward its second deadline on March 24, when committees must act favorably on bills, or companions of bills, which met the first deadline in the other body.

FLOOR ACTIVITY

HF 1104 (Koegel) was heard on the House floor and passed on a vote of 70-58. This bill modifies employer retaliation provisions against pregnant and lactating employees. The bill now moves to the Senate for consideration.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

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

The House Children and Families Committee heard:

- HF 2320 (Pinto) – Children’s cabinet modified; Department of Children, Youth, and Families established; responsibilities of Department of Education, Department of Human Services, and Department of Public Safety transferred to Department of Children, Youth, and Families. This was re-referred to Education Finance.
- HF 1698 (Howard) – Family, friend, and neighbor child care grant program established; reports required; and money appropriated. The bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.

- HF 1198 (Hanson) – Child care assistance expanded to certain families, grants and rules regarding children's mental health expanded and modified, transition to community initiative modified, mental health staff training requirements modified, covered transportation services modified, coverage of mental health clinical care coordination modified, rules regarding children's long-term stays in the emergency room modified, rural family response and stabilization services pilot program established, reports required, and money appropriated. The bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.
- HF 1629 (Perez-Vega) – Learning with Music program expanded to childhood educators, and money appropriated. The bill was re-referred to Education Finance.
- HF 2471 (Pinto) – Child care assistance eligibility and co-payment requirements modified. The bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.

The House Human Services Policy Committee heard:

- HF 2712 (Fischer) – Department of Human Services Office of Inspector General Policy and Technical Bill; re-referred to Health Finance and Policy Committee.
- HF 2321 (Pinto) – Children's cabinet modified; Department of Children, Youth, and Families established. This was referred to the state and Local Government Finance and Policy Committee.

The House Education Policy Committee heard:

- HF 1269 (Pryor) – Prekindergarten through grade 12 provisions modified including general education accountability and transparency, education excellence, American Indian education, charter schools, discipline, teachers, special education, and early learning. This bill was re-referred to the Education Finance Committee.

The House Judiciary Committee heard:

- HF 2322 (Pinto) – Children's cabinet modified; Department of Children, Youth, and Families established; responsibilities of Department of Education, Department of Human Services, and Department of Public Safety transferred to Department of Children, Youth, and Families. This bill was re-referred to the Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee.

The House State and Local Government Committee heard:

- HF 2099 (Richardson) – Task Force on Pregnancy Health and Substance Use Disorders established, reports required, and money appropriated. The bill was re-referred to the Health Finance and Policy Committee.

The Senate Health and Human Services Committee heard:

- SF 2398 (Wiklund) – Children's cabinet modified; Department of Children, Youth, and Families established; responsibilities of Department of Education, Department of Human Services, and Department of Public Safety transferred to Department of Children, Youth, and Families; reports required; rulemaking authorized; and money appropriated. The bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.
- SF 1274 (Maye Quade) – Healthy development of babies during pregnancy and postpartum for family members who are Black, Indigenous, or People of Color appropriation. The bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.
- SF 2438 (Wiklund) – Child care assistance obsolete language removal. No committee recommendation; second reading.

The Senate Education Finance Committee heard:

- SF 1240 (Putnam) – Support staff persons requirement for early childhood family education programs. This bill was laid over for consideration.
- SF 2097 (Cwodzinski) – ParentChild+ program appropriation. The bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.

The Senate Education Policy Committee heard:

- SF 1311 (Cwudzinski) – Education provisions modifications. The bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.

The Senate Tax Committee heard:

- SF 2182 (Coleman) – Exemption expansion for certain baby products. The bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.
- SF 1600 (Putnam) – Working family income tax credit eligibility modification. The bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill.

The Senate Jobs and Economic Development Committee heard:

- SF 1409 (Champion) – FATHER Project grant appropriation

BILL INTRODUCTIONS

The following bills were introduced during the week of March 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 2497 (Youakim)/SF 2684 (Kunesh) – Prekindergarten through grade 12 education funding provided; general education, education excellence, teacher, special education, facilities, nutrition, libraries, early childhood, community education, and state agencies provisions modified
- HF 2527 (Neu Brindley)/SF 2706 (Utke) – Reporting requirements related to maternal and infant health expanded
- HF 2565 (Pinto)/SF 2683 (Kunesh) – Early childhood programs provided, and money appropriated
- HF 2573 (Kotyza-Witthuhn)/SF 2606 (Boldon) – Early childhood apprenticeship program established; funding provided for apprenticeship program, early childhood workforce compensation task force, early childhood workforce development scholarships, and grants to postsecondary institutions to improve early childhood program curricula
- HF 2628 (Frederick)/SF 2499 (Abeler) – Fees provided and waived for certified birth records
- HF 2661 (Urdahl)/SF 2639 (Lang) – Property tax provisions modified, licensed child care provider credit established, and money appropriated
- HF 2655 (Hicks)/SF 2599 (Boldon) – Diaper distribution grant program established, reports required, and money appropriated
- HF 2698 (Pinto) – Child care assistance: obsolete language removed
- SF 2528 (Westrom) – Child care provider licensing modification
- HF 2684 (Bahner)/SF 2702 (Morrison) – Universal, voluntary home visiting program established for families with infants; and money appropriated
- SF 2642 (Westrom) – Noncampaign disbursements permission for child care costs and for costs incurred due to a candidate's disability
- HF 2650 (Bahner)/SF 2701 (Morrison) – Home visiting services funding provided, and money appropriated

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