



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE | March 7, 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 Minnesota Management and Budget's February budget forecast was released last week, indicating a \$17.5 billion surplus for the next biennium which begins July 1, 2023. With budget targets soon to follow, lawmakers will have all the information available to chart the state's economic path for the next two years.

The session's [first committee deadline](#) is on Friday, March 9. Committees must act favorably on bills in the house of origin, although the deadline does not apply to major appropriation and finance bills, which still have another month to move before the third deadline on April 4.

COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

Here are the committee discussions that took place during the week of February 27-March 3, 2023:

The House Children and Families Committee heard:

- HF 1661 (Hicks) – Informal kinship caregiver support grant program established; financial support expanded for adoptive, foster, and kinship families. Laid over for possible inclusion.
- HF 1672 (Hicks) – Quality Parenting Initiative funding provided. Laid over for possible inclusion.
- HF 2095 (Richardson) – Terminology for pregnant persons modified, standards for chemical dependency in pregnancy and prenatal substance use modified, prenatal substance use specified to not itself constitute neglect or maltreatment, prenatal substance use reporting requirements modified, and informed consent requirements established for parent and newborn infant toxicology tests and drug or alcohol screenings. Re-referred Health Finance and Policy committee.
- HF 2029 (Coulter) – Child care conditional license requirements modified, commissioner directed to create standardized visit time lines and requirements, definition of education amended, background study liaison created. Laid over for possible inclusion.
- HF 2106 (Kotzya-Witthuhn) – Employment qualifications modified for child care centers and amending child care center staffing rules. Laid over for possible inclusion.

The House Education Finance Committee heard:

- HF 990 (Lee) – After-school community learning programs modified. Laid over for possible inclusion.

The House Human Services Policy Committee heard:

- HF 2099 (Richardson) – Task Force on Pregnancy Health and Substance Use Disorders established, reports required. Passed and re-referred to State and Local Government Finance and Policy

The Senate Education Finance Committee heard:

- SF 1267 (Maye Quade) – Early learning scholarship program modification and appropriation. Laid over for possible inclusion.
- SF 615 (Kunesh) – Voluntary prekindergarten and school readiness plus program permanent expansion and appropriation. Laid over for possible inclusion.
- SF 1270 (Cwodinzki) – Reach Out and Read Minnesota program grant appropriation. Laid over for possible inclusion.
- SF 1719 (Putnam) – Education partnership program modification. Laid over for possible inclusion.
- SF 20 (Kunesh) – Full-service community schools appropriation. Laid over for possible inclusion.

The Senate Health and Human Services Finance and Policy Committee heard:

- SF 1680 (Wiklund) – Family, friend, and neighbor child care grant establishment. Laid over for possible inclusion.
- SF 2356 (Wiklund) – Child care safety and correction orders, human services licensing qualifications, infant safety, and foster care and child care training provisions modifications. Laid over for possible inclusion.

The Senate Tax Committee heard:

- SF 1811 (Rest) – Governor’s Tax bill. Laid over for possible inclusion.

The Senate State and Local Government Committee heard:

- SF 402 (Kunesh) – Community Solutions fund. Passed and re-referred to Finance Committee

The Senate Jobs and Economic Development Committee heard:

- SF 1610 (Putnam) – Greater Minnesota child care facility program appropriation. Recommended to pass and re-referred to Capital Investment committee.
- SF 1611 (Putnam) – Minnesota Initiative Foundations appropriation. Laid over for possible inclusion.
- SF 1612 (Putnam) – Child care providers number increase appropriation. Laid over for possible inclusion.

The Senate Finance Committee heard:

- HF 150 (Wiklund) – Child care stabilization base grants modification and appropriation; early learning scholarship eligibility modification. Bill passed and re-referred to General Orders.

The Senate Tax Committee heard:

- SF 1754 (Pratt) – Child temporary refundable income tax credit establishment. Laid over for possible inclusion.
- SF 9 (Hauschild) – Dependent care credit expansion and great start child care credit establishment. Laid over for possible inclusion.

The Senate Labor Committee heard:

- SF 1018 (Maye Quade) – Employer retaliation provisions modified, and pregnancy accommodations modified. Bill passed as amended and referred to the General Register.

BILL INTRODUCTIONS

The following bills were introduced during the week of February 27-March 3. For more information about bills introduced to date, or to see all of the bills introduced, please download our weekly [Bill Tracker](#).

- HF 990 (Lee)/SF 2149 (Oumo Verbeten) – After-school community learning programs modified
- HF 1142 (Coulter)/SF 2432 (Maye Quade) – Early learning scholarships program changes made
- HF2029 (Coulter)/SF 2254 (Bolden) – Child care conditional license requirements modified, commissioner directed to create standardized visit time lines and requirements, definition of education amended, background study liaison created
- HF 2024 (Pryor)/SF 2357 (Nelson) – Child Care Professional Supply and Retention Credit
- HF 2094 (Richardson)/SF 2543 (Morrison) – Terminology modification for pregnant persons
- HF 2099 (Richardson)/SF 2139 (Morrison) – Task Force on Pregnancy Health and Substance Use Disorders established
- HF 2103 (Kozlowski)/SF 966 (McEwen) – Fees elimination for certified birth certificates for newborns
- HF 2106 (Kotyza-Witthun)/SF 2248 (Hoffman) – Employment qualifications modified for child care centers and amending child care center staffing rules
- HF 2125 (Engen)/SF 2182 (Coleman) – Sales and use tax provisions modified, and baby product exemption expanded
- HF 2184 (Norris)/SF 2041 (Mohamed) – Minneapolis; YWCA grant funding provided, and money appropriated
- HF 2214 (Frazier)/SF 2241 (Putnam) – Black Men Teach Twin Cities program grant authorized
- HF 2281 (Hill)/SF 2289 (Maye Quade) – Early education teachers required to be licensed, and definition of teacher modified under Public Employment Labor Relations Act
- HF 2291 (Pinto) – 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; and reports required
- HF 2292 (Pinto)/SF 2373 (Kunesh) – Obsolete language removed from voluntary prekindergarten statutes
- HF 2293 (Pinto)/SF 2377 (Kunesh) – Obsolete language removed from early childhood family education statutes
- HF 2320, HF 2321, HF 2322, HF 2323 (Pinto)/SF 2398, SF 2399, SF 2400, SF 2401 (Wiklund) – A bill for an act relating to state government; modifying the children's cabinet; establishing the Department of Children, Youth, and Families; transferring responsibilities from the Department of Education, Department of Human Services, and Department of Public Safety to the Department of Children, Youth, and Families
- HF 2330 (Coulter)/SF 2356 (Wiklund) – Provisions dealing with child care safety and correction orders, human services licensing qualifications, infant safety, and foster care and child care training modified
- HF 2451 (Bahner)/SF 2385 (Bolden) – Greater Twin Cities United Way grant program funding provided for trauma-sensitive care in preschool settings, and money appropriated
- HF 2471 (Pinto)/SF 2229 (Wiklund) – Child care assistance eligibility and co-payment requirements modified
- HF 2476 (Pinto)/SF 2437 (Wiklund) – Child care assistance; obsolete language removed
- HF 2478 (Hill)/SF 2430 (Maye Quade) – Way to Grow program funding provided, and money appropriated
- HF 2514 (Hassan)/SF 2525 (Cwodzinski) – YWCA Minneapolis grant established for early childhood and youth programming
- HF 2526 (Hassan)/SF 1409 (Champion) – FATHER Project grant appropriation
- HF 2527 (Neu Brindley) – Reporting requirements related to maternal and infant health expanded
- SF 2228 (Kupec) – Great Start Childcare and Early Learning Workforce Grant Program establishment and appropriation
- SF 2243 (Putnam) – In-home day care cooperative health plans authorization
- SF 2493 (Nelson) – Refundable child credit establishment

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