



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE | May 16, 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 conference committee process continued last week with varying degrees of progress. Among the committees with an impact on the early education field that did complete their work were the **Higher Education Conference Committee** and the **Jobs and Economic Development Committee**. A recap of the related final bill contents is below.

The **Early Education Conference Committee** posted a conference committee report, but it failed to pass the House Floor, so it is going back to the committee for more discussion this week.

The session is now in the home stretch, with the constitutional deadline for completion on Monday, May 22, and a stated preference for completion **by Friday, May 18. The contents of all final conference committee reports/bills related to early care and education and school-age care will be reported in the final Legislative update once the session has ended.**

OMNIBUS BILL STATUS/ACTION

Below is a list of bills, the appointed conferees, and a summary of the items that will be under discussion. You can find out more about the **composition and progress** of each conference committee and track their activity [at this link](#). If you want to see a **comparison of what is in** the House and Senate versions of each bill, you can find all of the “**side by sides**” at [this link](#).

Omnibus Higher Education Finance and Policy Bill (HF 2073)

Status: Conference Report passed the House 69-62; Senate 34-30

Items included in the final bill:

- Appropriates base-level funding of **\$6.694 million** per year for **child care grants** to student parents
- Adds **child care to the Dual Training Competency Grant program** and appropriates **\$6.632 million** in FY24 and **\$2.632 million** in FY25. This is \$5.264M above base for the biennium.
- Appropriates **\$3 million** in 2024 and **\$3 million** in 2025 in new funding for **grants to postsecondary institutions and partnering entities to assist students who are expectant parents and parents of young children.**

- Appropriates **\$475,000** in FY24 in new one-time funding to develop a transparent pathway for current child development associate credential holders to be awarded academic credit that aligns with related academic certificates, diplomas, and degree programs. Money must be used to develop curriculum at eight colleges and universities, develop training and advising tools for those institutions, and form a statewide advisory committee to advise the project development.
- Dedicates base funding of **\$4.5 million** per year to **workforce development scholarships** for high-needs careers (which includes child care).

Omnibus Jobs, Economic Development, Labor, and Industry Bill (SF 3035)

Status: Conference Committee report posted; awaiting floor votes

Items included in the final bill:

- **Child care facilities in churches.** A licensed day care center serving fewer than 30 preschool-age persons, and which is located in a belowground space in a church building is exempt from the State Building Code requirement for a ground-level exit when the center has more than two stairways to the ground level and its exit.
- **Family and group family day care.** Until the legislature enacts legislation specifying appropriate standards, the definition of dwellings constructed in accordance with the International Residential Code as adopted as part of the State Building Code applies to family and group family day care homes licensed by the Department of Human Services under Minnesota Rules, chapter 9502.
- Establishes the **Office of Child Care Community Partnerships** within the Department of Employment and Economic Development to coordinate with government and business entities to promote investment in child care businesses and access and to administer child care economic development grants, among other duties (**\$450,000 per year**).
- Allocates **\$50,000 per year** to the Labor Market Information Office to **conduct research and analysis related to the child care industry.**
- Allocates **\$6.5 million per year in 2024-25 and \$1.5 million per year in 2026-27** in grants to local communities to **increase the number of quality child care providers** to support economic development.
- Allocates **\$3.5 million per year in 2024-2025 and \$1 million per year in 2026-2027** in grants to the Minnesota Initiative Foundations **focused on increasing child care.**

Omnibus Early Learning Bill (HF 2292)

House Conferees: Pinto; Pérez-Vega; Daniels

Senate Conferees: Kunesh; Wiklund; Duckworth

Items included in this bill: Early Learning Scholarships, Head Start, ECFE, “Grow Your Own” for early educators, school readiness, kindergarten assessment, and home visiting.

Omnibus Health and Human Services Bill (SF 2995)

House Conferees: Liebling; Bierman; Pinto; Keeler; Schomacker

Senate Conferees: Wiklund; Morrison; Boldon; Kupec; Abeler

Items included in this bill: Child care assistance, child care workforce support, child care licensing, child care, and early infrastructure and technology.

Omnibus Education Finance Bill (HF 2497)

House Conferees: Youakim; Hill; Pryor; Clardy; Kresha

Senate Conferees: Kunesh; Cwodzinski; Gustafson; Maye Quade; Duckworth

Items included in this bill: Voluntary Pre-K, and “Grow your own” educators.

Omnibus Tax Bill (HF 1938)

House Conferees: Gomez; Lislegard; Lee, K.; Agbaje; Davids

Senate Conferees: Rest; Klein; Dibble; Weber; Hauschild

Items included in this bill: Increases in the child tax credit, changes to the working family tax credit and the child care/dependent care tax credit, and young children tax credit.

BILL INTRODUCTIONS

There were no new early childhood-related bills introduced during the week of May 8-12. For more information about bills introduced to date, or to see all of the bills introduced, please download our weekly [Bill Tracker](#).

DEADLINES

- **May 22-** Last day of the session (constitutional deadline).