



The third week of the Minnesota session once again made it clear that major campaign bills are going to have a difficult time making it through this legislative session. This week we saw tempers flare in the Children and Families committee around when to alert the public that investigations into child care centers is happening. More on that below.

Floor Proceedings

The House met in session this week on Monday and Thursday. The Senate met on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. In the House, Monday was a relatively routine day, except for two impeachment resolutions brought by the newly formed Freedom sub-caucus of the GOP against Gov. Tim Walz and AG Keith Ellison. Thursday was a quick paper push business day.

In the Senate, Monday was a quick business day. Wednesday, was also a quick business day. Thursday, Sen. Rasmusson moved to take up the confirmation of the appointment of the new Commissioner of Human services, Shireen Gandhi. After debate on the motion, the vote failed on a party line 32-34 vote.

The Legislature has used 44 of their 120 allotted legislative days. As a reminder, the legislative day count only goes up when one of the two bodies gives any bill a third reading, adopts a rule of procedure or organization, elects a university regent, confirms a gubernatorial appointment, or votes to override a gubernatorial veto. None of these actions occurred on either floor this week.

Legislators have introduced 4046 House Files and 4190 Senate Files.

Hearing Updates

House Proceedings:

This week the House Children and Families Committee met on Tuesday and Wednesday.

On Tuesday, the committee took up two bills. HF3542 was presented by Rep. Walter Hudson, and the bill aims to provide public access to information regarding investigations

against entities when an agency has decided to reduce, suspend, or withhold payments. The testimony against this bill was strong from a variety of providers sharing personal stories of threats they have faced since this fall's Nick Shirley "investigation" was posted online. Testimony became very heated when Co-Chair Carlie Kotyza-Witthuhn shared she was "disgusted by the response" from Rep. Hudson to the providers that shared their stories and his subsequent dismissiveness. This caused an uproar from both Rep. Hudson and other members on the GOP side of the aisle. The bill ultimately failed to advance on a party line vote.

The next bill was HF3819, which aimed at addressing fraud in state programs by requiring annual reports, mandating in-person inspections without prior notice, and implementing measures such as requiring cameras in childcare centers receiving significant funding. The bill also reinstates penalties for submitting false records. The bill had a lot of public testimony as well in opposition. The bill was laid over and will be brought back up for discussion when the committee has more time.

On Wednesday, Ashley Reishower, CFO of the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF), and Budget Director Marina Baleria provided an update on the February 2026 forecast for DCYF programs. They noted that the agency did not present changes since the November forecast, focusing instead on spending trends. The DCYF operates five forecasted programs, all state entitlement programs with spending determined by state statute. The November forecast indicated a decrease of \$20.5 million (2.6%) for the 26-27 biennium and an increase of \$7.8 million (0.8%) for the 28-29 biennium. The February forecast showed a total spending decrease of \$37.9 million, with a net decrease of \$14.1 million (1.9%) in the 26-27 biennium and \$23.8 million (2.5%) in the 28-29 biennium.

Senate Proceedings:

Over in the Senate, on Tuesday DCYF presented the same forecast report as the presentation in the Children and Families committee. They did not discuss any bills of note this week.

Next Week (As officially scheduled by 2:00 PM on 3/6/26)

- Monday, March 9
 - House and Senate Floor Sessions
- We anticipate Children and Families hearings to be scheduled prior to Tuesday's hearing time.

Bill Lists

[Transforming Minnesota's Early Childcare Workforce](#)

[Child Care Aware](#)

General Interest

If you wish to watch the exchange between Rep. Hudson and Rep. Kotyza-Witthuhn, the following hearing link is where to go. The exchange begins at 26:22. Bring your popcorn!

[Link here](#)

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