



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE | FEBRUARY 7, 2017

We'll post the [Legislative Update and Bill Tracker](#) on the Child Care Aware of Minnesota website each Tuesday to reflect the activity through the previous Friday. You can read a brief overview of introduced bills, committee level or floor action, and other news related to **early care and education and school age care**. If you have questions or additions to recommend, please email Ann McCully at: [AnnM@childcareawaremn.org](mailto:AnnM@childcareawaremn.org).

### COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

- **Jan. 30:** The **Senate Human Services Reform** Committee met to review the Governor's DHS budget
- **Jan. 31:** The **House Education Policy** Committee reviewed MDE's "World's Best Workforce" report
- **Feb. 1:** The **House Subcommittee on Child Care Access and Affordability** received an overview of the child care regulatory system from DHS
- **Feb. 1:** The **House Health and Human Services Finance** Committee met to review the Governor's DHS budget
- **Feb. 1:** The **Senate Human Services Reform** Committee took public testimony on the Governor's DHS budget
- **Feb. 2:** The **House Job Growth and Energy Affordability Policy and Finance** Committee heard **HF 315-the tax credits for parental leave bill** which was passed and amended and referred to the Tax Committee
- **Feb. 2:** The **Senate Focus on Five and Under working group** continued with overviews on the WIC program, Home Visiting, Early Childhood Screening, and the Urban Indian Welfare act
- **Feb. 2:** The **House Education Finance** Committee met to review the Governor's Education budget
- **Feb. 2:** The **Senate Committee on Higher Education Finance & Policy** met to review the Governor's Higher Ed. Budget
- **Feb. 2:** The **Senate Health and Human Services** Committee met to review the Governor's Health Department budget

### BILL INTRODUCTIONS

For more information about each bill, please download our weekly Bill Tracker. This list includes topics and numbers for bills introduced through **Feb. 3, 2017**:

#### CHILD CARE (DHS)

- Child care assistance subsidy restrictions modified (**HF 139-Knoblach/SF 381-Relph**)
- Basic sliding fee child care programs modified, eligibility for early learning scholarship modified, system redesign provided, and money appropriated (**HF 219-Moran/SF 317 Clausen**)
- Hands Off Child Care Act adopted (**HF 604-Quam**)
- Child care assistance program maximum reimbursement rates modified, and money appropriated (**HF 723-Peterson**)
- Basic sliding fee child care assistance program forecasted, and child care assistance provider reimbursement rates modified (**HF 724-Moran/SF 560-Hayden**)
- At-home infant child care program appropriation (**SF 448- Relph**)

## E-12 EDUCATION

- Appropriating money for grants to full-service community schools (**HF 146-Davnie/ SF 7-Wiger**)
- Early learning scholarship program administration modification; predetermined qualifying programs scholarships designation prohibition (**SF 389-Nelson**)
- Child and Adult Care Food Program administration by the Health Department provided (**HF 547-Fenton**)
- School readiness programs appropriations increase (**SF 558- Cwodzinski**)
- Community education revenue program increase (**HF 625-Youakim/SF 204-Latz**)
- Minnesota reading corps program appropriation (**HF 646-Bennett/SF 443-Nelson**)
- Education partnerships enhanced, youth development promoted, education partnerships coalition fund established, and money appropriated (**HF 734-Haley**)

## HIGHER EDUCATION

- Loan forgiveness program for individuals working in greater Minnesota established (**HF 319-Lien/SF 109-Eken**)
- Refundable student loan credit allowed (**HF 365-Applebaum/SF 165- Clausen**)

## TAXES

- Dependent care credit modified (**HF 64-Bernardy/SF 212-Laine**)
- Tax credits for parental leave costs allowed (**HF 315-Anderson, S./ SF 454-Nelson**)
- Prekindergarten education program donation credit provided, districts required to accept scholarships funded by donations, and report required (**HF 388-Kresha**)
- Working family income tax credit modification (**HF 516-Loeffler/SF 28-Rest**)
- Education expense credit and deduction applied to expenditures for prekindergarten expenses (**HF 602-Anderson, S.**)

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Establishing a Working Parents Act (**HF 239-Thissen**)
- Minneapolis YWCA economically challenged individuals job skills development grant appropriation (**HF 793 O'Neill/SF 602-Hayden**)

## COMMITTEE DEADLINES

- **Friday, March 10:** Committees must act favorably on bills in the house of origin
- **Friday, March 17:** Committees must act favorably on bills, or companion bills, that met the first deadline in the other house
- **Friday, March 31:** Committees must act favorably on major appropriation and finance bills