



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE | May 16, 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).

### LATEST ACTION

Negotiations between the Governor and Legislative Leaders in an attempt to reach a global agreement **stalled on Tuesday, May 9**, after the sides exchanged offers but didn't find common ground. This led to the decision to have committees sign the existing conference committee reports, and begin to bring the omnibus bills to the House and Senate floors for votes.

**As of Friday, May 19, the E-12 and Health and Human Services bills had been heard and passed by both bodies and sent to the Governor, who vetoed them.** Governor Dayton cited the following items related to early care and education as part of his veto letters:

#### E-12 Education:

*"My budget proposal would provide more than 17,000 4-year olds with high quality prekindergarten across our state in order to meet the known demand for the program next year, and to provide the early learning opportunities we all agree are important in closing educational gaps. Yet this bill eliminates voluntary prekindergarten as an option for families, completely disregarding the needs and interests of thousands of families across the state for this high-quality, early learning option. This is not acceptable. Parent choice is further diminished by the cap in the bill on Pathway II early learning scholarships."*

*"...you have insisted on inserting a number of troubling policy provisions, including delaying by six years the requirement that providers receiving early learning scholarships are three-or four-star rated through Parent Aware."*

#### Health and Human Services:

*"Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) improvements: My budget proposes \$58 million in new investments to improve child care services for 30,000 families and increase child care provider rates for the 4,100 providers who care for children on CCAP statewide. These changes will make the CCAP program work better for kids, families and providers statewide. These investments and policy changes are also required in order for Minnesota to maintain the federal funding from the Child Care Development Block Grant that was reauthorized by Congress in 2015 with bipartisan support."*

The Tax, Higher Education and the Jobs bills were not voted of both the House and Senate floors as of Friday, May 12, but will likely be heard early in the week of May 15. This is also when negotiations between the Governor and Legislative leadership are expected to resume.

No substantive changes were made to the early care and education elements of the conference committee reports as reported last week, but here is a recap (including final floor vote totals):

**OMNIBUS EDUCATION BILL – HF 890**

*Passed the House 72-59; Passed the Senate 34-33*

- Repeals the **voluntary Pre-Kindergarten** program and funding (approximately \$41 million), but substitutes school readiness funds for existing VPK programs so that they can continue in the next biennium.
- Creates an **Education Partnership Coalition Fund** to continue and expand the work of some of the Promise Neighborhoods/Transformation zones.
- Increases funding and makes changes to **the Early Learning Scholarship program** as follows:
  - Broadens eligibility to include a child of a parent under age 21 who is pursuing a high school degree or a course of study for a high school equivalency test; homeless, in foster care, or in need of child protective services.
  - Caps the “**Pathway 2**” scholarship funding, which provides direct funding for program spaces, at current levels.
  - Delays the requirement for programs to have a 3 or 4 star Rating in order to accept scholarships to **July 1, 2022**.
- **The following programs would receive an increase over the current base funding:**

PROGRAM	BASE FY 18-19	Conf. Committee recommendation	BASE FY 20-21	Conf. Committee recommendation
Minnesota Reading Corps	\$11.25 million	\$12.25 million	\$11.25 million	\$14.25 million
School Readiness (covers current VPK programs)	\$67.4 million	\$112.9 million	\$67.4 million	\$115.3 million
Early Learning Scholarships	\$119.8 million	\$138.8 million	\$119.8 million	\$139.8 million
ECFE (formula increase)	\$59.5 million	\$61.6 million	\$61.5 million	\$64.7 million
Parent-Child home	\$700,000	\$1.8 million	\$700,000	\$1.8 million
Transformation Zone-NAZ	\$2.4 million	\$2.6 million	\$2.4 million	\$2.6 million
Transformation Zone- SPPN	\$2.4 million	\$2.6 million	\$2.4 million	\$2.6 million
Greater MN Ed. Partnership	-	\$960,000	-	\$960,000

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BILL – SF 800**

*Passed the House 76-56; Passed the Senate 34-32*

- Sets MA payment rates for prenatal and post-partum follow-up **home visits** provided by a public health nurse, or a registered nurse supervised by a public health nurse, using evidence-based models, at a minimum of \$140 per visit.
- Adds new funding for start-up and expansion grants to community health boards, nonprofit organizations, and tribal nations to start up or expand **evidence-based home visiting programs**.
- Implements a pilot program to increase awareness and encourage **early preventive dental disease interventions for infants and toddlers**.
- Modifies CCAP rates by setting the maximum rate for child care providers who are located **within the boundaries of a city located in two or more of the counties of Benton, Sherburne, and Stearns** at the maximum rate paid in the county with the highest maximum reimbursement rates or the provider’s charge, whichever is less.
- Incorporates the Governor’s proposed changes to the Child Care Assistance program to address **program integrity concerns** including recipient potential fraud and misuse, provider fraud, and administrative errors.
- Specifies that “annual” or “annually” in family child care training requirements means the **12-month period beginning on the license anniversary** and ending the day prior to the anniversary.
- Clarifies that an individual who is related to the license holder and who is involved only in the care of the license holder's own infant or child under school age and who is not designated to be a caregiver, helper, or substitute for the licensed program, is **exempt from the sudden unexpected infant death and abusive head trauma training**.
- Requires a licensing agency to offer a **child care license holder an exit interview** to discuss violations observed during inspection and offer technical assistance to help the license holder comply, before completing a licensing inspection.

- Requires the commissioner to issue **an amended correction order** and requires the license holder to post the amended order, if the commissioner reverses or rescinds a violation in a correction order upon reconsideration.
- Prohibits the commissioner and county licensing agencies **from mandating or suggesting quotas** for issuing correction orders to any person responsible for licensing or inspecting child care centers or family child care providers.
- Requires the commissioner to issue a **“fix-it ticket”** to a child care license holder under a variety of specific situations.
- Requires DHS to **timely inform family child care and child care center license holders of changes** in federal and state statute, rule, regulation, or policy, relating to child care, child care assistance, child care quality rating and improvement, and licensing functions, in order to promote license holder compliance with changes.
- Requires the commissioner of human services to provide a **report on the status of child care** in Minnesota to the chairs and ranking minority members of committees with jurisdiction over child care, by February 1, 2018.
- Exempts licensed family day care programs, licensed group family day care facilities, and licensed child care centers from Minnesota Rules, chapter 9544, **the positive supports rule**.
- Directs the commissioner to **develop guidelines for posting public licensing data** for licensed child care programs.
- **Repeals state statute** related to the Family Child Care Providers Representation Act (unionization).
- Re-establishes funding for the **At Home Infant Care option** under the Child Care Assistance Program.
- Provides funding for the **Minnesota Birth to Eight Pilot Project** that will evaluate the impact of a coordinated systems and service delivery approach on key developmental milestones and outcomes.
- **The following programs would receive an increase over the current base funding:**

PROGRAM	Conf. Committee recommendation FY 18-19	Conf. Committee recommendation 20-21
Child Care Assistance multi-county rate adj.	\$142,000	\$149,000
Child Care Assistance Program integrity (savings)	(\$14.4 million)	(\$26.7 million)
Public Health Nurse Home visiting-MA increase	\$614,000	\$1.2 million
Dental Services Grants	\$1 million	
At Home Infant Care Program	\$2.25 million	\$2.05 million
Dakota County Birth to Eight project	\$200,000	
Evidence Based Nurse Home Visiting	\$3 million	\$1.5 million

## UPCOMING DATES

- **May 22:** Session adjournment deadline