

Early Childhood Policy and Budget Division
April 7, 2005
3:00 p.m. Room 123
Chair, Senator John C. Hottinger

Present:

Hottinger, Chair
Bob Kierlin
Gary Kubly
Sean Nienow
Sandy Pappas
Dan Sparks

Absent:

Linda Scheid
Betsy Wergin

Senator Kubly called the meeting to order at 3:16 p.m.

A quorum was present.

AGENDA ITEM #1: S.F. 1792-Hottinger: Consolidating the MFIP and basic sliding fee child care programs.

- Senator Hottinger introduced the bill and walked the committee through the summary. The goal of the bill, as well as the committee, is to make sure no child starts behind. This bill is for struggling families.
- Barb Yates, Department of Human Services, answered questions of the committee.

MOTION: Senator Hottinger moved the A1 Amendment. Joan White, Counsel, explained the amendment.

→ Passed.

- Joel Kramer, Executive Director of Growth and Justice, emphasized two main points. (1) Child care is also about the parents, and getting them into the work force. (2) The government should fully fund all those eligible, and not place them on waiting lists.
- Zoe Nicholie, Ready 4 K, spoke to how this bill moves towards an effective child care policy for children and families.

The bill was held over for consideration in the omnibus bill.

AGENDA ITEM #2: S.F. 2026-Kubly: Modifying child care provider rates.

- Senator Kubly introduced the bill, which seeks to reimburse providers from rates that were frozen in 2003.
- John Molinaro, West Central Initiative, spoke to how some centers' rates were greatly reduced.
- Maureen Bellis, Legislative Consultant for Anoka County, raised the issue that the language "counties or the state" was too vague.

MOTION: Kubly moved an oral amendment, which read: page 1, line 13, before "Counties" insert "Out of the appropriation of state and federal funds made available for this purpose,"

→ Passed.

The bill was held over for consideration in the omnibus bill.

AGENDA ITEM #3: S.F. 2027-Kubly: Creating a child care assistance provider reimbursement rate grant program.

MOTION: Senator Kubly moved the A1 Amendment.

→ Passed.

- John Molinaro, West Central Initiative, referenced his handouts. He spoke in support of this bill because Minnesota has lost more than 500 licensed childcare providers. This bill would establish a grant program for eligible counties to equalize the rates. Mr. Molinaro said this was not a perfect fix, but we are getting there. This would cost \$2.65 million for the biennium.


AGENDA ITEM #4: "Minnesota School Readiness Year Three Study: Developmental Assessment at Kindergarten Entrance, Fall 2004"

- Betty Cooke & Barbara O'Sullivan, Early Childhood Education Specialists, Minnesota Department of Education, walked the committee through their PowerPoint presentation.


The study strategically located school districts to study. They talked about the conclusions, recommendations and future directions. A key future direction was to have a study that could establish a link between early childhood care and school readiness.

Senator Hottinger adjourned the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Senator John C. Hottinger
Division Chair



Jane Bowman
Division Secretary

Early Childhood Policy and Budget Division

Chair: Sen. John Hottinger

Thursday, April 7, 2005

3:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Room 123 State Capitol

S.F. 1792-Hottinger: Consolidating the MFIP and basic sliding fee child care programs.

- Joel Kramer, Growth and Justice
- Zoe Nicholie, Ready 4 K

S.F. 2026-Kubly: Modifying child care provider rates.

- John Molinaro, West Central Initiative

S.F. 2027-Kubly: Creating a child care assistance provider reimbursement rate grant program.

- John Molinaro, West Central Initiative

“Minnesota School Readiness Year Three Study: Developmental Assessment at Kindergarten Entrance, Fall 2004”

- Betty Cooke & Barbara O’Sullivan, Early Childhood Education Specialists, Minnesota Department of Education

Senate Committee Meeting Log

Committee Name: Early Childhood Education Policy & Budget Division

Date: 4/7/05 Day: Thursday Start Time: ~~3:18~~ 3:18

Agenda - *See agenda included.*

Bill # (or Topic)	SF 1792
Author	HOTTINGER
Short Descriptor	Consolidating MFIP & Basic Sliding Fee child care programs
Action(s)	Carried over
Bill # (or Topic)	SF 2026
Author	KUBLY
Short Descriptor	Modifying childcare provider rates
Action(s)	Carried over
Bill # (or Topic)	SF 2027
Author	KUBLY
Short Descriptor	Creating a childcare assistance provider reimbursement rate grant grant program.
Action(s)	Carried over
Bill # (or Topic)	
Author	
Short Descriptor	
Action(s)	