2025

Legislative Summary

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Office on the Economic Status of Women

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The **2025 Legislative Session** was the beginning of a new biennium and therefore a budget year. Even though regular session got off to a late start, lawmakers still introduced a record breaking **6,893 bills**, with 39 making it onto the Governor's desk and into law by the end of May. However, several budgets were still under negotiation and required a Special Session in June to wrap up, and we've included those laws in this summary as well.

Childcare has been a major concern for both our office, the Legislature, and the entire state of Minnesota, and this session featured significant grant funding to increase the number of quality childcare providers to better support Minnesota's working families. Grants will be going towards increasing the number of child care providers, as well as research and analysis of the childcare industry to continue to better understand how to improve childcare access in Minnesota. These appropriations make up a slight increase compared to previous investments in childcare.

Many other statutes featured brand new legislation, or amendments to old ones to make them more applicable and efficient, like the Omnibus State Government Operations Bill, Chapter 39, which clarifies the purpose and definition of **equitable compensation relationships**. Job classifications categorize types of work by value and experience to counteract the gender bias with which we often view certain types of work. These classification systems have historically been an integral part of increasing gender pay equity.

Joining a nation-wide push for more ethical practices in medicine, Minnesota has joined 20 other states by passing a requirement for all **sensitive medical examinations** performed for teaching purposes on patients under anesthetic to **require prior written, informed consent**.

Alongside each bill is a link to its Chapter page, as well as the House and Senate versions of it's original bill. Don't hesitate to reach out to us at oesw@lcc.mn.gov for more information on this year's relevant legislation!

Office on the Economic Status of Women
Minnesota Legislative Coordinating Commission

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Public Safety - Child Sex Trafficking Prevention Program Evaluation

Law: Chapter 12

Bill: HF129 / SF2210

Overview: Requires the director of child sex trafficking prevention to conduct or contract for a comprehensive evaluation of the statewide program for safe harbor for sexually exploited youth to examine whether the program is reaching intended victims and that support services are available, accessible, and adequate. An evaluation must be submitted each odd-numbered year.

Children and Families - Department of Children, Youth and Families recodification and technical changes

Law: Chapter 21

Bill: HF2551/ SF2706

Overview: Continues the process of recodification of statutes to the Department of Children, Youth and Families, established in 2023. Contains technical changes missed in previous legislation to continue the transfer of authorities and powers previously held by the original agencies to the Department of Children, Youth and Families.

Public Safety - Authorization of criminal background checks

Law: Chapter 22

Bill: HF286 / SF803

Overview: Authorizes counties and cities to investigate the criminal history background of any applicant for licensure to operate a business that qualifies as an adult entertainment establishment or provides massage services.

Capital Investment - Mary C. Murphy Library Construction Grants Program

Law: Chapter 25

Bill: HF1090 / SF1661

Overview: Renames a public library construction grant program for improvements and increased accessibility to library facilities as the Mary C. Murphy Library Construction Grants Program.

Judiciary, Public Safety, and Corrections Policy and Finance Omnibus

Law: Chapter 35

Bill: HF2432 / SF1417

Overview:

Appropriations:

- $1,000,000 in fiscal year 2026, with $1,500,000 each year following to establish a Domestic Violence Housing First grant program, and a Domestic and Sexual Violence Transitional

Housing program to develop transitional housing for survivors of abuse.

- $1,248,000 each year to establish and maintain the Minnesota Office for Missing and Murdered Black Women and Girls
- $274,000 each year for staff and operating costs for the Office of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives, the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Advisory Board, and the Gaagige-Mikwendaagoziwag reward advisory group
- $3,771,000 base appropriation to reimburse qualified health care providers for costs associated with administration of examinations to victims of criminal sexual misconduct as required by Minnesota Statute sec. 609.35
- $5,000,000 to provide grants for direct services and advocacy for victims of sexual assault, general crime, domestic violence, and child abuse.
- $150,000 each year to an organization providing legal representation for children in need of protection or legal services, contingent on a match in equal amount from nonstate funds in the form of the value of volunteer attorney time, cash, or a combination of both.

Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 609.322, subd. 1: Amendment to sentencing guidelines for the solicitation, inducement, and promotion of prostitution; sex trafficking in the first degree.

Sec. 13. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 595.02, sub. 1: Amendment to require domestic abuse advocates to gain consent from the victim to disclose information that the advocate "acquired in attending to the victim in a professional capacity."

Sec.13 Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 595.02, subd. 2, and Sec. 21 Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 617.247: Language change from "pornographic work" to "child sexual abuse material".

Sec. 3 Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 611A.0315, subd. 1-2: Added language regarding the notice of decision not to prosecute made to include victims of violations for orders of protection, domestic abuse no contact orders, and harassment restraining orders. Added definitions of "violation of order of protection" and "violation of a harassment of restraining order".

Sec. 3 Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 611A.0315, Subd. 3-3b: Language changes to the required notification from a peace officer to a victim about available services and resources, both written and orally. Adds the requirement of a notice of submission of an apology letter from a custodial authority to the victim.

Sec. 10 Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 11. 517.103: Change to the process of amending marriage records detailing what documentation is required to be submitted to the local registrar.

Omnibus Health and Human Services

Law: Chapter 38

Bill: HF2115 / SF2443

Overview:

Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 144.651, subdivision 10a: Broadens support person requirements in healthcare facilities to include all patients, including but not limited to pregnant patients.

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 142E.51, subdivision 5: Adds illegal remuneration to the list of intentional program violations eligible

for disqualification of childcare providers from receiving childcare assistance. Subdivision 6a defines illegal renumeration.

Sec. 23. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 245G.19: Amended to include a childcare license exemption for license holders that provide supervision for less than 3 hours a day while the child's parent is in the same building. Requires a staff member trained in CPR and first aid be present at all times.

Omnibus State Government Operations

Law: Chapter 39

Bill: HF2783 / SF3045

Overview:

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 42A.01, subdivision 3: Changes to language in equitable compensation relationships definition.

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 155A.23, subd. 22: Definition added for "textured hair" as "hair that is coiled, curly, or wavy".

Omnibus Jobs, Labor, Economic Development policy and appropriations (1st Special Session)

Law: Chapter 6

Bill: SF17/ HF15

Overview:

Appropriations:

- $1,500,000 each year is for grants to local communities to increase the number of quality child care providers to support economic development. Fifty percent of grant funds must go to communities located outside the seven-county metropolitan area as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 473.121, subdivision 2.
- $500,000 each year is for the Office of Child Care Community Partnerships. Of this amount:
    - $450,000 each year is for administration of the Office of Child Care Community Partnerships; and
    - $50,000 each year is for the Labor Market Information Office to conduct research and analysis related to the child care industry.
- $1,000,000 each year is for grants in equal amounts to each of the Minnesota Initiative Foundations. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2029. The Minnesota Initiative Foundations must use grant money under this paragraph to:
    - facilitate planning processes for rural communities resulting in a community solution action plan that guides decision making to sustain and increase the supply of quality child care in the region to support economic development;
    - engage the private sector to invest local resources to support the community solution action plan and ensure quality child care is a vital component of additional regional economic development planning processes;
    - provide locally based training and technical assistance to rural child care business owners individually or through a learning cohort. Access to financial and business development assistance must prepare child care businesses for quality engagement and improvement by stabilizing operations, leveraging funding from other sources, and fostering business acumen that allows child care businesses to plan for and afford the cost of providing quality child care; and

    - recruit child care programs to participate in quality rating and improvement measurement programs. The Minnesota Initiative Foundations must work with local partners to provide low-cost training, professional development opportunities, and continuing education curricula. The Minnesota Initiative Foundations must fund through local partners an enhanced level of coaching to rural child care providers to obtain a quality rating through measurement programs.
- $250,000 each year is for a grant to the Coalition of Asian American Leaders to support outreach, training, technical assistance, peer network development, and direct financial assistance targeted to Asian Minnesotan women entrepreneurs and Asian-owned businesses. This is a onetime appropriation and is available until June 30, 2028.
- $250,000 each year from the workforce development fund is for a grant to WomenVenture to support child care providers through business training and shared services programs and to create materials that may be used, at no cost to child care providers, for start-up, expansion, and operation of child care businesses statewide, with the goal of helping new and existing child care businesses in underserved areas of the state become profitable and sustainable.
    - Of this amount, up to five percent may be used for WomenVenture's technical assistance and administrative costs. This is a onetime appropriation and is available until June 30, 2028.
    - By December 15, 2028, WomenVenture must submit a report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over agriculture and employment and economic development. The report must include a summary of the uses of the appropriation, including the amount of the appropriation used for administration. The report must also provide a breakdown of the amount of funding used for loans, forgivable loans, and grants; information about the terms of the loans issued; a discussion of how money from repaid loans will be used; the number of entrepreneurs assisted; and a breakdown of how many entrepreneurs received assistance in each county.
- $750,000 each year is for the women and high-wage, high-demand, nontraditional jobs grant program under Minnesota Statutes, section 116L.99. Of this amount, up to five percent is for administration and monitoring of the program.
- $250,000 each year from the workforce development fund is for a grant to the Black Women's Wealth Alliance to provide individuals with job skills training, career counseling, and career placement assistance for in-demand careers with family sustaining wages. This is a onetime appropriation.
- $466,000 each year is for a grant to Greater Twin Cities United Way to fully or partially subsidize child care costs for individuals who are:
    - (1) eligible for the early learning scholarship program under Minnesota Statutes, section 142D.25, subdivision 2;
    - (2) not receiving an early learning scholarship or assistance through the child care assistance program; and
    - (3) working at least 32 hours a week providing direct care for children in a licensed child care center, certified child care center, or licensed family child care setting.
        - Of this amount, up to ten percent is available for Greater Twin Cities United Way to administer the program. This is a onetime appropriation and is available until June 30, 2028.

- Subsidies must not exceed $5,000 per child per year and eligibility under clause (3) must be reverified approximately every three months. At least 25 percent of recipients must be employed in a licensed child care center, certified child care center, or licensed family child care provider located in Economic Development Area 3.

Omnibus Health, Children and Families (1st Special Session)

Law: Chapter 3

Bill: HF2/ SF6

Overview:

Sec. 47 [144.124]: Requires healthcare providers to provide education materials to parents and primary caregivers to recognize the signs of physical abuse in infants. Resources and materials will be made available on the Department of Health website.

Sec. 30. [144.6584]: Establishes requirement for health professionals and students to obtain prior written, informed consent before conducting pelvic, breast, urogenital, or rectal examinations on anesthetized or unconscious patient for the purposes of instruction, clinical training, or residency.

Sec. 77. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 145.8811: Changes the Maternal and Child Health Advisory Task Force to the Maternal and Child Health Advisory Committee.

Minnesota Certified Midwife Practice Act: Establishes detailed licensure process for midwifery including licensure process, renewal, clinical practice requirements, drug prescription authorization associated fees, grounds for disciplinary action and suspension, reporting obligations, and more.