

Weekly Legislative Update: **Early Care and Education**

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A reminder that February 17 is the last day for bills to be approved by their policy committees of origin. With some exceptions, most notably bills necessary to implement the state budget, bills not getting out of policy committees will be considered dead.

Many of the bills we support have received a “do pass” recommendation and need to be approved by their Senate or House fiscal committee by February 24. These include: [SB 5225](#), [SB 5316](#), [SB 5423](#), [HB 1451](#), [HB 1511](#), and [HB 1525](#).

Two bills of concern are scheduled for public hearing this week. Both would undermine efforts to improve the quality of early care and education for young children. **Please sign in CON on these bills at least an hour prior to the public hearings noted below.**

- [HB 1537](#)-Licensing requirements for child care centers and indoor early learning programs. Scheduled for public hearing in the House Committee on Human Services, Youth & Early Learning on February 17 at 8:00 am. Sign in [CON](#) here.
- [HB 1739](#)-Concerning instruction for child care providers. Scheduled for public hearing in the House Committee on Human Services, Youth & Early Learning on February 14 at 1:30 pm. Sign in [CON](#) here.

Among the early care and education bills we are following, [HB 1199](#), Licensed childcare in common interest communities, is the first to make it through the House of Representatives and to be scheduled for public hearing in the Senate. This bill is scheduled for hearing on February 16 at 8:00 am in the Senate Law & Justice Committee.

How You Can Be Involved

- Using the links provided, weigh-in as an individual on bills supported by the LWVWA.
- If you're interested in a particular bill, use the links above to go to the bill page. These pages include staff summaries and reports including who testified pro versus con on the bill. There is also information about how to access videos of hearings that have been held.
- Contact Karen Tvedt, ktvedt@lwvwa.org if you have questions.