

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

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Cut-off dates are fast approaching with bills needing to have passed policy committees (the committee where they started) in their house of origin (House or Senate) by February 17. Bills with fiscal implications must meet a February 24 fiscal committee deadline.

As might be expected, we're beginning to see fiscal notes on bills that would require funding to implement (fiscal notes are posted on bill pages). [SB 5225](#) to increase access to the Working Connections Child Care Program and [SB 5316](#) to eliminate background check and licensing fees have been referred to the Senate Ways & Means Committee (the Senate fiscal committee). [SB 5423](#) Eligibility for Working Connections Child Care, is scheduled for hearing in Senate Ways & Means on February 9 at 4:00 pm.

Three bills are scheduled for executive session in the House Committee on Human Services, Youth, & Early learning on February 7 at 1:30 pm. These include [HB 1451](#) to Expand the Child Care Workforce; [HB 1511](#), which would eliminate certain income sources in eligibility considerations for Working Connections Child Care; and [HB 1525](#), also relating to eligibility for Working Connections Child Care.

One new bill of interest is [HB 1550](#) which proposes to create a transition to kindergarten program to help fill gaps in access to high quality early learning for eligible children. A public hearing was held on this bill on January 31.

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.