

Bill Comparison Summary of House File 2292, Second Engrossment / House File 2497, First Unofficial Engrossment / Senate File 1311, Second Engrossment

Prepared by:

House Research Department and Senate Counsel, Research and Fiscal Analysis

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Comparison Summary of H.F. 2497 – House (H2292-2) / Senate (UEH2497-1) / Senate (S1311-2)

HOUSE		Comparison	SENATE		
Section	Description		S.F.	Section	Description
1	<p>Distribution of appropriation. [Head Start] Allows the state appropriations for Head Start programs to be used for costs associated with program operations, infrastructure, or reconfiguration to serve children from birth to age five in center-based services. Designates 10.72 percent of the total state appropriation to Tribal Head Start programs and specifies an order in which the state appropriation must be distributed.</p>	Same	UEH2497-1	Article 8, section 1	<p>Distribution of appropriation. Provides that the state appropriation for Head Start programs may be used for costs associated with program operations, infrastructure, or reconfiguration to serve children from birth to age five in center-based services. Designates 10.72 percent of the total state appropriation to Tribal Head Start programs and specifies an order in which the state appropriation must be distributed.</p>
2	<p>Screening program. Requires a district screening program to include virtual developmental screening for families who request one based on their immunocompromised health status or other health conditions.</p>	Same	S1311-2	Article 7, section 1	<p>Screening program. Requires an early childhood developmental screening to include developmental assessments, including virtual developmental screening for families who make the request based on their immunocompromised health status or health conditions.</p>
3	<p>Developmental screening aid. Increases the amount of state aid paid to school districts for each child who is screened prior to or within 30 days of enrolling in public school kindergarten.</p>	Same	UEH2497-1	Article 8, section 2	<p>Developmental screening aid. Increases the developmental screening aid per child or student screened to \$98 for a child screened at age three; \$65 for a child screened at age four; \$52 for a child screened at age five or six prior to kindergarten; and \$39 for a student screened within 30 days after first enrolling in a public school kindergarten if the student has not been previously screened.</p>
4	<p>Prekindergarten, school readiness, preschool, and early education programs; licensure requirement. Subd. 1. Licensure requirement. Requires that a school district and charter school employ a licensed teacher to provide instruction in a preschool, school readiness, school readiness plus, prekindergarten, or</p>	No comparable provision			

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	<p>other early education program in a school district or charter school.</p> <p>Subd. 2. Exemptions. Provides that an individual who has taught in an early education program for at least five years prior to September 1, 2028, may continue to teach without obtaining a license. Provides that exempt individuals are teachers for purposes of PELRA, which determines which individuals can be in the teacher bargaining unit.</p> <p>Makes the section effective July 1, 2028.</p>				
5	<p>Grants for Grow Your Own early childhood educator programs.</p> <p>Establishes a Grow Your Own early childhood educator grant program that allows licensed child care programs and other programs or organizations to apply for a grant to host, build, or expand an early childhood educator preparation program that leads to a credential or degree needed to enter or advance in the early childhood education workforce. Establishes a “Grow Your Own Early Childhood Education program account” in the special revenue fund. Appropriates up to \$175,000 annually to the commissioner to administer and monitor the program. Requires grant recipients to report to the commissioner on their activities and requires the commissioner to publish a report for the public summarizing the activities and outcomes of grant recipients.</p>	No comparable provision			

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6	<p>Support staff. [ECFE] Directs the Department of Education to employ two full-time equivalent staff to provide operational support and guidance to ECFE programs. Requires that each staff person hold a valid license as a teacher of parent and family education. The section is effective for revenue for fiscal year 2024 and later.</p>	House makes the provision effective for revenue for fiscal year 2024 and later.	UEH2497-1	Article 10, section 3	Support staff. Requires the department to employ two full-time equivalent staff to serve as resources for early childhood family education programs. Requires each staff person to hold a valid license as a teacher of parent and family education.
7	<p>Additional duties. Strikes two requirements to produce recommendations that the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care has fulfilled. Requires that the council review and provide input on the work produced by the Great Start for All Minnesota Children Task Force.</p>	Minor differences	S1311-2	Article 8, section 3	Additional duties. Strikes obsolete language related to the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care. Requires the council to review and provide input on the recommendations and implementation timelines developed by the Great Start for All Minnesota Children Task Force.
8	<p>Kindergarten entry assessment.</p> <p>Subd. 1. Assessment required. Directs the commissioner to implement a kindergarten entry assessment of incoming kindergarteners.</p> <p>Subd. 2. Process. Directs school districts and charter schools to choose a kindergarten entry assessment tool approved by the department that meets specified requirements. Requires the department to provide assessment-related technical assistance and professional development to educators, school districts, and charter schools.</p> <p>Subd. 3. Reporting. Requires that school districts and charter schools annually report the results of the</p>	No comparable provision			

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	<p>kindergarten entry assessment to the department. Directs the commissioner to publicly report the results in the manner specified.</p> <p>Subd. 4. Implementation. Provides a three-year phase-in of the requirements under this section, with all school districts and charter schools complying beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.</p>				
9	<p>Family eligibility. [Early learning scholarships] Aligns financial eligibility for scholarships with at-application eligibility for BSF child care assistance, which is currently set at income equal to or less than 47 percent of state median income. Makes families that have a child who is referred as in need of child protective services or placed in foster care eligible for scholarships regardless of a family’s income level. Changes a child’s eligibility for scholarships to include all children from birth through age four on September 1 of the current school year. This section is effective July 1, 2024.</p>	<p>House sets eligibility for scholarships at income equal to or less than 47 percent of state median income and makes the section effective July 1, 2024. Senate sets eligibility at 200 percent of the federal poverty level.</p>	<p>S1311-2</p> <p>UEH2497-1</p>	<p>Article 8, section 4</p> <p>Article 8, section 4</p>	<p>Family eligibility. Modifies the number of requirements a family needs before receiving an early learning scholarship. Adds having a child referred as in need of child protection services as an eligibility requirement for receiving an early learning scholarship.</p> <p>Family eligibility. Expands eligibility for scholarships to include families with income equal to or less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Changes a child’s eligibility for scholarships to include all children from birth through age four on September 1 of the current school year.</p>

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10	<p>Administration. [Early learning scholarships] Adds priority groups for scholarships, including children who are younger than four years old, children who have incarcerated parents, children with a parent in a substance use treatment program or a mental health treatment program, and children who have experienced domestic violence.</p> <p>Directs the commissioner to establish a schedule of tiered scholarship amounts based on specified factors.</p> <p>Provides that a scholarship cancels if a recipient has not enrolled in an eligible program within three months, rather than ten months, of receiving the scholarship. Allows extensions if a program is unavailable to a child within the three-month timeline.</p> <p>This section is effective July 1, 2024.</p>	House modifies how the commissioner must establish per child scholarship amounts and makes the section effective July 1, 2024. Senate adds children in low-income families as a priority group.	S1311-2	Article 8, section 5	Administration. Modifies the priority list for early learning scholarships to children who are not yet four years of age, have been referred as in need of child protection service, or have an incarcerated parent. Modifies the time a family has before the scholarship cancels and the recipient must reapply from ten months to three months.
			UEH2497-1	Article 8, section 5	Administration. Adds the following as priority groups for receiving scholarships: children who have an incarcerated parent or a parent in a substance use or mental health treatment program, children who have experienced domestic violence, and children with family income equal to or less than 185 percent of the federal poverty level.
11	<p>Early childhood program eligibility. [Early learning scholarships] Removes the requirement for programs to have three or four stars under Parent Aware to accept scholarships. The requirement would have gone into effect beginning July 1, 2024.</p>	No comparable provision			
12	<p>Early learning scholarship account. Increases the amount the commissioner may use for costs associated with administering and monitoring scholarships, up to \$2,133,000 annually. Allows the</p>	No comparable provision			

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	commissioner to use money in the early learning scholarship special revenue fund for family outreach and distribution of scholarships.				
13	<p>School of parents’ choice. Provides that a parent of a student with a disability who is not yet enrolled in kindergarten and not open enrolled in a nonresident district may elect a school in a nonresident district where the child is enrolled in a Head Start program or a licensed child care program.</p>	Minor differences	S1311-2	Article 8, section 6	School of parents’ choice. Allows a parent of a student with a disability who is not yet enrolled in kindergarten and not open enrolled in a nonresident district to elect a school in the nonresident district.
14	<p>Teacher. Modifies the definition of “teacher” for purposes of PELRA. Includes in the definition of teacher, a person providing instruction to children in preschool, school readiness, school readiness plus, prekindergarten, or other early education program in a school district or charter school. Allows these teachers to stay in a different bargaining unit certified before January 1, 2023, with some exceptions.</p>	No comparable provision			
15	<p>Financial review of nonprofit grant recipients required. Requires any entity that awards a grant to a nonprofit organization pursuant to this bill to first assess the nonprofit’s financial standing and management. Authorizes grantors with significant concerns to postpone or forgo the grant altogether or award the grant subject to additional technical assistance and requirements imposed by the grantor to protect the state’s interests.</p>	No comparable provision			

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	Specifies information that grantors must require each nonprofit applicant to provide, including the nonprofit's latest annual return filed with the Internal Revenue Service, where applicable, and evidence of registration and good standing with the Office of the Secretary of State and the Office of the Attorney General. Requires nonprofits with more than \$750,000 in annual revenue to submit audited financial statements. Requires grantors to document and retain specified information, including whether and how the applicant resolved the grantor's initial concerns regarding the nonprofit's financial standing and management.				
16	Appropriations given effect once. Provides that if an appropriation or transfer in this article is enacted more than once during the 2023 regular session, then the appropriation or transfer must take effect only once.	No comparable provision			
17	Appropriations; Department of Education. Appropriates money to the Department of Education for early learning programs. See fiscal tracking sheets.	Different funding levels and purposes	UEH2497-1	Article 8, section 7	Appropriations. See fiscal tracking sheets.
18	Appropriation; early childhood curriculum grants. Appropriates \$250,000 in each of fiscal years 2024 and 2025 to the commissioner of the Office of Higher Education for competitive grants to Minnesota postsecondary institutions to modify curricula for early	No comparable provision			

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	childhood education programs. This is a onetime appropriation.				