Committee deadlines change
Legislative leaders announced that committee deadlines have been changed to give committees more time to operate due to the compressed session schedule. The new deadlines are:

- Friday, March 20 - Committees must act favorably on bills in the house of origin.
- Friday, March 27 - Committees must act favorably on bills, or companions of bills, that met the first deadline in the other body.
- Friday, April 3 - Committees must act favorably on major appropriation and finance bills

Updated budget forecast to be released Thursday
The February forecast, which is the forecast the Governor and the Legislature will use to determine any potential supplemental budget bill, will be released Thursday at 11:15. Recently, legislators have expressed caution because the most recent monthly budget update indicated revenues were coming in less than forecasted. More information will be provided in next week’s update.

Committee hearings of interest
The House Early Childhood Policy and Finance Division advanced HF1, which makes permanent the VPK/School Readiness Plus slots, and provides an additional $190 million each for early learning scholarships and the child care assistance program. The proposal also includes funding to expand kindergarten readiness assessment to all school districts and expands the home visiting grant program to include evidence informed models.

Bill introductions of interest
SF3313: Appropriating money for early learning scholarships.
HF3491: Increasing the formula allowance by one percent; providing inflationary increases in general education revenue.
HF3504: Limiting the use of individual-use screens in preschool and kindergarten.