— HOUSE RESEARCH ————— _____ Bill Summary _

FILE NUMBER: Version:	H.F. 3510 As introduced	DATE:	March 8, 2010
Authors:	Peterson and others		
Subject:	Creating a Department of Early Childhood Care and Education		
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Overview

This bill creates a new Department of Early Childhood Care and Education and transfers certain programs and appropriations from the Departments of Education, Human Services, and Health to the new department.

Section

1 Department of Early Childhood Care and Education. Creates § 4.046. Paragraph (a) establishes the Department of Early Childhood Care and Education to coordinate a high-quality early childhood system in Minnesota. Requires the governor to appoint, and the Senate to confirm, a commissioner who is a recognized expert in the field of early childhood care and education.

Paragraph (b) lists the duties of the commissioner.

Paragraph (c) requires the commissioner to coordinate activities with the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care.

Paragraph (d) requires the commissioner to report to the legislative committees with jurisdiction over the early childhood education and child care programs by February 1 of each year on the status of the work required under paragraph (b) and any statutory changes necessary to improve quality and access. Requires the commissioner to present to the same committees by February 1, 2011, a detailed plan to colocate state early childhood education and child care assistance programs and services.

Makes this section effective the day following final enactment.

2 Transfer; duties and staff; appropriations. Transfers certain responsibilities of the commissioners of education, human services, and health to the Department of Early Childhood Care and Education. Transfers certain positions within the Departments of Education, Human Services, and Health to the Department of Early Childhood Care and Education. Requires the Department of Early Childhood Care and Education to rely on

existing appropriations and staff for carrying out its duties. Transfers certain state and federal appropriations to the Department of Early Childhood Care and Education.