

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

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| Action: | Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed |
| Vote: | 8 - 0 - 0 |
| Yeas: | Bailey, Barnhart, Bentz, Boone, Gilliam, Jenson, Smith J., Cannon |
| Nays: | 0 |
| Exc.: | 0 |
| Prepared By: | Beth Patrino, Administrator |
| Meeting Dates: | 4/9, 4/23 |

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires public utility that provides customer with outdoor lighting fixtures to make option of using shielded outdoor lighting fixtures available to customer. Creates exceptions. Prohibits sale or installation of outdoor lighting fixtures that are mercury vapor lighting fixtures; makes exception for reinstallations of existing fixtures. Prohibits use of state money to install or reinstall outdoor mercury vapor lighting fixtures. Indicates that provisions related to mercury vapor lighting become operative 60 days after effective date of Act. Directs that public buildings constructed or on which outdoor lighting fixtures are replaced have installed shielded outdoor lighting to the greatest extent practicable on or after January 1, 2010. Authorizes municipality to enact ordinance or resolution that meets or exceeds public building requirements. Authorizes municipality to waive requirements upon determination that the use of shielded lighting is not practical for a public building because of its historic character or other reasons. Defines “shielded lighting”. Declares an emergency; effective upon passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- How shielded lighting works
- Effects of light pollution on wildlife
- “Dark sky” ordinances enacted by some municipalities
- Energy savings from certain light fixtures

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Clarifies that “shielded” means light fixture is designed to ensure specified standards are met. Moves new standards for public building outdoor lighting from amendment to existing statute governing lighting standards to stand-alone requirement. Clarifies that new standard also applies to replacement lighting. Authorizes a municipality to enact ordinance that meets or exceeds standard. Authorizes a municipality to determine that shielded lighting is not practical because of the historic character of the building or for other reasons, and to waive the requirement. Defines “shielded lighting”.

BACKGROUND: The term “light pollution” is used to describe a situation when outdoor lighting is misdirected, unshielded, excessive or unnecessary. As a result, light spills unnecessarily upward and outward, causing glare and a nighttime urban “sky glow” overhead, indicating wasted energy and obscuring of the nighttime sky. The installation of shielded fixtures or light bulbs that direct the light only where it is needed can reduce light pollution and save energy costs.