

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action: Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure

Vote: 3 - 2 - 0

Yeas: Hass, Prozanski, Dingfelder

Nays: Atkinson, Boquist

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Beth Herzog, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 5/19, 5/28

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 reinstallation of existing fixtures. Prohibits use of state money to install or reinstall outdoor mercury vapor lighting fixtures. Makes 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:

- Unable to clearly see stars because of ineffective lights
- Energy savings from certain light fixtures

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

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.