

HB 3202 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Transportation

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Meeting Dates: 3/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires certain outdoor lighting fixtures on public lands, or constructed for projects receiving state funds, to use shielded lighting fixtures. Directs Department of Transportation to use minimal amounts of lighting on highways. Requires state agencies to remove non-shielded outdoor lighting fixtures no later than January 1, 2034.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The term "light pollution" refers to the nighttime glow of artificial light typically seen near large population centers, and certain industrial installations. In addition to obscuring views of the night sky, light pollution can have detrimental impacts on wildlife, as well as on human health by interrupting natural circadian body rhythms.

Color temperature is a term used to describe the appearance of light emitted by lighting fixtures, in a range from 1,000 to 10,000 Kelvin. Most commercial and residential fixtures emit between 2,000 and 6,500 Kelvin. The scale is based on the color that metal glows when heated, with lower numbers providing warmer lighting, and higher numbers (typically over 5,000 Kelvin) appearing more similar to cool daylight.

House Bill 3202 revises the existing shielded lighting fixture requirement by adding provisions for emitting only as much light as required to achieve the intended purpose, and a maximum limit of color temperature of 3,000 Kelvin. The measure's provisions apply to permanent and portable fixtures, including those installed on buildings or structures, used for advertisement or illumination, such as spotlights, searchlights, floodlights, architectural lighting, parking lot lighting, landscape lighting, billboards, and street lighting. The measure also directs ODOT to replace outdoor lighting fixtures, as practicable and safe, with reflective markings, lines, materials, and signs.