
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6607

AN ACT CONCERNING THE NIGHTTIME LIGHTING OF STATE-OWNED BUILDINGS AT CERTAIN TIMES FOR THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS.

SUMMARY

This bill requires nonessential outdoor lighting at state-owned buildings to be turned off between 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. from March 15 to May 31 and August 15 to November 15 each year, or other dates the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection commissioner determines (i.e., during peak avian migration periods). The shut-off requirement applies to lighting a state agency head determines are not essential for safety or functionality.

Existing law, unchanged by the bill, generally prohibits using state funds to install or replace outdoor lights or lighting units on state building or facility grounds that (1) fail to maximize energy conservation and minimize light pollution; (2) emit more light than is minimally needed for their intended purposes; or (3) have an output of more than 1,800 lumens (the unit for measuring a light source's brilliance), unless it is a unit that allows no direct emissions above a certain point (CGS § 4b-16).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 32 Nay 0 (03/03/2023)