
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6607 (as amended by House "A")*

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. The shut-off requirement applies to lighting a state agency head determines are not essential for safety or functionality, but not to lighting at the State Capitol building.

The bill also requires the state building inspector and the Code and Standards Committee to consider a change in lighting design to effectuate this outdoor lighting requirement when making changes to the State Building Code that take effect on or after January 1, 2024.

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).

*House Amendment "A" (1) applies the requirement all year as opposed to only during "peak avian migration periods," (2) exempts the State Capitol building, and (3) adds the requirement for the state building inspector and the Code and Standards Committee.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

COMMITTEE ACTION

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 32 Nay 0 (03/03/2023)