



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 159

January Session, 2023

Substitute House Bill No. 6607

House of Representatives, March 22, 2023

The Committee on Environment reported through REP. GRESKO of the 121st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

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

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) For the purposes of this
2 section: (1) "Nonessential outdoor lighting" means lighting that has not
3 been deemed essential for either safety or functionality, as determined
4 by a state agency head; and (2) "peak avian migration period" means the
5 period from August fifteenth to November fifteenth of each year and the
6 period from March fifteenth to May thirty-first of each year, or such
7 other dates determined by the Commissioner of Energy and
8 Environmental Protection.

9 (b) For any state-owned building, nonessential outdoor lighting shall
10 be turned off between the hours of eleven o'clock p.m. and six o'clock
11 a.m. during peak avian migration periods.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

ENV *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 24 \$	FY 25 \$
Various State Agencies	GF - Savings	Up to \$2,900,000	Up to \$2,900,000

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

This bill would result in savings to the state by reducing electricity consumption at certain state agencies. The state currently owns 3,733 buildings as of October 2022¹, encompassing 67,316,464 sq ft of space: and leasing an additional 1,801,737 sq ft². The average cost for electricity has increased significantly this year bringing the monthly cost using the July rate³ to an estimated \$4,853,497. The Federal Department of Energy estimates that 30% of all electricity in office buildings is wasted monthly⁴. This bill for a period of at least two months attempts to reduce that waste and eliminate non-essential uses. While it is likely less than 2.9 million, that represents the maximum savings the state could generate from this bill. There may be some potential cost associated with this bill depending upon the current shut off procedures in place by the building, but that cost is indeterminate and unlikely to significantly impact the savings generated.

¹ CT Data

² Department of Administrative Service Annual Report

³ Eversource Commercial Rate

⁴ United States Department of Energy

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation and DEEP extending or reducing the effective time period as outlined in the legislation.

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)