

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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**Subject:** Light pollution

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### Section

- 1 **PURPOSE.** The legislature finds it is beneficial to conserve energy, reduce oppressive glare, minimize night pollution, and preserve the night environment. The cooperation of utilities and businesses is requested to reduce light pollution.
- 2 **Definitions. Subd. 3. Full cutoff luminaire.** "Full cutoff luminaire" means a luminaire from which no more than 2.5 percent of the lamp lumens are emitted above a 90 degree angle through the luminaire's lowest part, and fewer than 10 percent are emitted above an 80 degree angle at that point.  
  
**Subd. 4. Light pollution.** "Light pollution" means the night sky glow caused by the scattering of artificial light in the atmosphere.  
  
**Subd. 5. Outdoor lighting fixture.** "Outdoor lighting fixture" means any movable or fixed lighting equipment used for outdoor illumination, including billboard lighting, streetlights, searchlights, lighting used for advertising and area lighting. Motor vehicle lighting required by law and lighting required for the safe operation of aircraft are excluded.
- 3 **[116.936.] STANDARDS FOR PUBLICLY FUNDED OUTDOOR LIGHTING FIXTURES.**  
  
(a) Sets conditions on installation, replacement, maintenance, and operation of outdoor lighting fixtures using public funds. The functions may be conducted only if:
  - new or replacement fixtures are full cutoff luminaries, provided that the rated output

of the fixture is above 1,800 lumens;

- nationally recognized standards for minimum required illuminance for specific purposes is considered;
- for highway lighting, the Department of Transportation determines that the lighting task cannot be accomplished using reflective road markers, lines, warning signs, etc.;
- full consideration has been given to energy conservation, glare reduction, minimization of light pollution and preserving the natural light environment.

(b) Paragraph (a) does not apply under the following conditions:

- a federal law, rule or regulation preempts state law;
- the fixture is used temporarily for nighttime work or by emergency personnel for emergency procedures;
- special events requiring additional illumination, provided the fixtures are shielded from direct view and upward lighting and light pollution is minimized;
- the fixture is used solely to highlight the aesthetic aspects of a single object; or
- a compelling safety interest exists that cannot be addressed by another method.