

1 State of Arkansas  
2 93rd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2021

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1584

4  
5 By: Representative S. Meeks  
6

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS NIGHTTIME ENVIRONMENT  
9 PROTECTION ACT; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
10

### Subtitle

11  
12 TO CREATE THE ARKANSAS NIGHTTIME  
13 ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION ACT.  
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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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19 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Findings.

20 The General Assembly finds that:

21 (1) Street lighting that is used excessively and inefficiently  
22 is not a cost-effective use of taxpayer money;

23 (2)(A) Light pollution generated by street lighting systems has  
24 been implicated in disruption of the human and animal circadian rhythm and  
25 strongly suspected as an etiology of suppressed melatonin production,  
26 depressed immune systems, and increases in certain cancer rates, while  
27 disability glare poses safety risks, especially for the elderly.

28 (B) The findings set out in subdivision (2)(A) of this  
29 section prompted the American Medical Association in June 2009 to adopt a  
30 resolution advocating the reduction of light pollution and glare through the  
31 use of energy-efficient shielded lighting, and in 2016 the American Medical  
32 Association advocated avoiding outdoor lighting with high levels of blue  
33 light; and

34 (3) It is in the public interest to set standards for outdoor  
35 night lighting fixtures to promote safety, conserve energy, save tax dollars,  
36 and preserve the state's natural nighttime environment for the health and



1 welfare of the state's citizens and wildlife.

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 3 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code Title 8, Chapter 14, is amended to read as  
 4 follows:

5 CHAPTER 14

6 ~~SHIELDED OUTDOOR LIGHTING ACT~~ ARKANSAS NIGHTTIME ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION ACT

7  
 8 8-14-101. Title.

9 This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "~~Shielded Outdoor~~  
 10 ~~Lighting Act~~" "Arkansas Nighttime Environment Protection Act".

11  
 12 8-14-102. Purpose.

13 The purpose of this chapter is to ~~conserve energy and preserve the~~  
 14 ~~environment through the regulation of outdoor lighting fixtures~~ regulate  
 15 street lighting systems to promote safety, conserve energy, save tax dollars,  
 16 and preserve the state's natural nighttime environment.

17  
 18 8-14-103. Definitions.

19 As used in this chapter:

20 (1) ~~"Outdoor lighting fixture" means an automatically~~  
 21 ~~controlled, outdoor artificial illuminating device, whether permanent or~~  
 22 ~~portable, used for illumination or advertisement, including searchlights,~~  
 23 ~~spotlights, and floodlights, whether for architectural lighting, parking lot~~  
 24 ~~lighting, landscape lighting, billboards, or street lighting; and~~

25 (2) ~~"Shielded" means a fixture that is covered in a manner that~~  
 26 ~~light rays emitted by the fixture, either directly from the lamp or~~  
 27 ~~indirectly from the fixture, are projected below a horizontal plane running~~  
 28 ~~through the lowest point on the fixture where light is emitted.~~

29 (1) "Excessive cost" means:

30 (A) The cost to meet a requirement under this chapter is  
 31 excessive when the present value of purchasing, installing, maintaining, and  
 32 powering a street lighting system over its anticipated life expectancy is at  
 33 least one hundred ten percent (110%) more expensive than a nonconforming  
 34 street lighting system; or

35 (B) In the case of a tariff on a street lighting system,  
 36 the tariff for the street lighting system for a conforming street lighting

1 system is greater than the tariff for a nonconforming street lighting system;

2 (2) "Governing body" means an agency director for a state level  
3 entity and the legislative body for a county or municipality;

4 (3) "Fixture" means a complete lighting unit, including without  
5 limitation a light source together with the parts designed to distribute the  
6 light, to position and protect the light source, and to connect the light  
7 source to the power supply;

8 (4) "Full cutoff" means a fixture does not allow more than two  
9 percent (2%) light emissions, either directly from a light source or  
10 indirectly by reflection or refraction from any part of the lighting unit,  
11 above a horizontal plane running through the lowest point on the fixture  
12 where light is emitted;

13 (5) "Illuminance" means the level of light measured on an  
14 intercepting surface;

15 (6) "Light pollution" means general sky glow caused by the  
16 scattering of artificial light in the atmosphere;

17 (7) "Light trespass" means excessive or unreasonable light  
18 emitted by a fixture that shines beyond the boundaries of the property on  
19 which the fixture is located;

20 (8) "Permanent outdoor fixture" means a fixture or system of  
21 fixtures that is outdoors and intended to be used or is used for ninety (90)  
22 days or longer; and

23 (9) "Street lighting system" means a group of adjoining street  
24 lighting fixtures that are on the same street and are substantively  
25 identical.

26  
27 8-14-104. Shielding—Prohibitions—Exemptions Regulations for  
28 outdoor illumination.

29 ~~(a)(1)(A) No public funds shall be used to install an outdoor lighting~~  
30 ~~fixture unless it is shielded.~~

31 ~~(B) Subdivision (a)(1)(A) of this section does not apply~~  
32 ~~to any municipality or county if the governing body of the municipality or~~  
33 ~~county determines by ordinance or to a municipally owned utility if the~~  
34 ~~municipal employee responsible for procurement determines that the cost of~~  
35 ~~acquiring a shielded outdoor lighting fixture will be prohibitive after~~  
36 ~~comparing.~~



1           ~~(5) Outdoor lighting fixtures that are necessary for worker~~  
2 ~~safety at farms, ranches, dairies, or feedlots or industrial, mining, or oil~~  
3 ~~and gas facilities.~~

4           ~~(c) This chapter does not apply to outdoor lighting fixtures~~  
5 ~~maintained or installed by:~~

6           ~~(1) A public school district;~~

7           ~~(2) A correctional facility;~~

8           ~~(3) A juvenile detention facility;~~

9           ~~(4) An adult detention facility;~~

10          ~~(5) A mental health facility; or~~

11          ~~(6) A state-supported institution of higher education.~~

12          (a) A state agency, public corporation, county, municipality, or  
13 electric utility shall not install, or cause to be installed, a new or  
14 replacement fixture or street lighting system unless the following conditions  
15 are met:

16           (1) The fixture is a full cutoff fixture when the initial rated  
17 lumens of the street lighting fixture are greater than one thousand eight  
18 hundred lumens (1,800 lm);

19           (2) The illuminance of a surface does not exceed what is  
20 adequate for that purpose under guidelines recommended for that purpose by  
21 the Illuminating Engineering Society, as the guidelines existed on January 1,  
22 2021, or the minimum illuminance recommendation for that purpose by the  
23 United States Department of Transportation, as the minimum illuminance  
24 recommendation existed on January 1, 2021;

25           (3) Consideration has been given to minimizing glare, light  
26 pollution, and light trespass and to reducing energy use; and

27           (4) The color temperature is four thousand kelvin (4,000 K) or  
28 less for major highways and thoroughfares and three thousand kelvin (3,000 K)  
29 or less for all other areas unless a recognized standard or practice requires  
30 otherwise.

31          (b)(1) An electric utility shall not install a permanent outdoor  
32 fixture for new or replacement residential security or area lighting when the  
33 initial lumen rating of the permanent outdoor fixture exceeds one thousand  
34 eight hundred lumens (1,800 lm) unless the permanent outdoor fixture is a  
35 full cutoff fixture and the color temperature is three thousand kelvin (3,000  
36 K) or less for residential lighting.

1           (2) If a property owner purchases a permanent outdoor fixture  
 2 that does not conform to the requirements of subdivision (b)(1) of this  
 3 section from a third party, the electric utility, at the electric utility's  
 4 discretion, may install, operate, and service the permanent outdoor fixture.

5           (c) An entity that installs new or replacement street lighting system  
 6 on behalf of or that will become the responsibility of a state agency, public  
 7 corporation, county, or municipality shall comply with subsection (a) of this  
 8 section.

9  
 10       ~~8-14-105. Penalties.~~

11       ~~Violations of this chapter are punishable by:~~

12           ~~(1) A warning for a first offense; and~~

13           ~~(2) A fine of twenty five dollars (\$25.00) minus the replacement~~  
 14 ~~cost for each offending outdoor lighting fixture for a second or subsequent~~  
 15 ~~offense or for an offense that continues for thirty (30) calendar days from~~  
 16 ~~the date of the warning.~~

17  
 18       8-14-106. Enforcement.

19       ~~This chapter may be enforced by a town, city, or county of this state~~  
 20 ~~by seeking injunctive relief in a court of competent jurisdiction.~~

21       This chapter shall be enforced by:

22           (1) The governing body of a political subdivision of the state  
 23 within its jurisdiction; and

24           (2) A local code enforcement agency within the jurisdiction of  
 25 the governing body of a political subdivision of the state.

26  
 27       ~~8-14-107. Provisions supplemental.~~

28       ~~The provisions of this chapter are cumulative and supplemental and~~  
 29 ~~shall not apply within a town, city, or county of this state that by~~  
 30 ~~ordinance has adopted provisions restricting light pollution that are equal~~  
 31 ~~to or more stringent than the provisions of this chapter.~~

32  
 33       8-14-108. Exemptions.

34       Section 8-14-104 does not apply if:

35           (1) A federal law, rule, or regulation preempts § 8-14-104;

36           (2)(A) There are special lighting requirements, including

1 without limitation:

2 (i) At sports facilities that comport with  
3 recognized lighting practice for such sports facilities as established by the  
4 Illumination Engineering Society;

5 (ii) For historic decorative considerations;

6 (iii) At monuments; and

7 (iv) For decorative lighting on bridges over  
8 navigable waterways.

9 (B) However, lighting exempted under subdivision (2)(A) of  
10 this section shall be selected and installed to shield the lamp or lamps from  
11 direct view to the greatest extent possible and to minimize upward lighting  
12 and light trespass;

13 (3) The lighting is for a public or private state correction  
14 facility, a detention facility, or a mental health facility;

15 (4) A single permanent outdoor street lighting fixture is part  
16 of a street lighting system and bringing the single permanent outdoor street  
17 lighting fixture into compliance would:

18 (A) Create a substantive change to the appearance of the  
19 single permanent outdoor street lighting fixture compared to the other  
20 fixtures in the street lighting system;

21 (B) Create a disruption in the illuminance levels of the  
22 street lighting system; or

23 (C) Require cost-prohibitive reengineering of the street  
24 lighting system; or

25 (5)(A) The governing body determines through an ordinance that a  
26 compliant street lighting system could not achieve the lighting conditions  
27 needed to meet safety concerns without incurring excessive cost.

28 (B) The ordinance shall be in effect only for the current  
29 instance of the project and include:

30 (i) The specific street lighting system and its  
31 location; and

32 (ii) A cost or safety justification for the need.

33  
34 8-14-109. Chapter cumulative and supplemental.

35 This chapter is cumulative and supplemental and shall not apply within  
36 a county or municipality that by ordinance or resolution has adopted

1 provisions restricting light pollution that are equal to or more stringent  
2 than this chapter.

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