

FEB 11 1999

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

HOUSE FILE 265
BY BURNETT

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____

Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____

Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to local goals and regulations for outdoor light
2 fixture efficiency.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 265

1 replacement outdoor light fixtures be full cutoff outdoor
2 light fixtures.

3 2. Requirements that a high percentage of or all new and
4 replacement outdoor light fixtures emit no more than four
5 percent of their light in the zone from the horizontal plane
6 through the lowest part of the fixture to fifteen degrees
7 below the horizontal plane.

8 3. Set maximum allowable light levels for various outdoor
9 lighting applications based on illuminating engineering
10 society of North America recommendations.

11 4. Prohibition of outdoor lighting which shines or
12 reflects light onto or into a neighboring property, so as to
13 annoy or disturb the persons inhabiting such neighboring
14 property, as constituting a nuisance.

15 5. Require electric utilities serving rural customers to
16 offer as an option, if not required as in subsection 1, full
17 cutoff outdoor light fixtures to their customers for dusk-to-
18 dawn security lights.

19 EXPLANATION

20 This bill relates to outdoor light fixture efficiency and
21 goals for local regulations regarding outdoor light
22 efficiency.

23 The bill lists the following legislative findings:

24 1. The night sky, defined as the sky overhead on a clear
25 night, is important to the citizens and uplight, defined as
26 light that goes directly up into the night sky from a light
27 fixture, is wasteful.

28 2. Glare, defined as light from a light source that draws
29 attention to the light source itself rather than to what the
30 light source is illuminating and that causes visual
31 discomfort, eye fatigue, or a loss of visual performance,
32 hinders visibility and should be kept to a minimum.

33 3. Outdoor light fixtures should direct light only to
34 where the light is wanted and should only produce light when
35 that light is needed.

1 4. The illuminating engineering society of North America
2 has recommended light levels for various outdoor lighting
3 applications and these light levels should not be exceeded.

4 5. Steps must be taken to reduce light pollution, defined
5 as obtrusive elements of outdoor lighting.

6 The bill provides that by January 1, 2003, all political
7 subdivisions of the state shall take steps to address the
8 obtrusive elements of outdoor lighting through new or revised
9 local ordinances. These ordinances shall include any of the
10 following:

11 1. Requirements that new and replacement light fixtures be
12 full cutoff.

13 2. Recommendations for new and replacement light fixtures
14 to emit no more than 4 percent of their light in the zone from
15 the horizontal plane through the lowest part of the fixture to
16 15 degrees below the horizontal plane.

17 3. Set maximum allowable light levels for various outdoor
18 lighting applications based on illuminating engineering
19 society of North America recommendations.

20 4. Prohibitions of outdoor lighting which shines or
21 reflects light onto or into a neighboring property, so as to
22 annoy or disturb the persons inhabiting such neighboring
23 property as constituting a nuisance.

24 5. Require electric utilities serving rural customers to
25 offer as an option, if not otherwise required, full cutoff
26 light fixtures to their customers for dusk-to-dawn security
27 lights.

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