

JHEANELLE WILKINS
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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 14, 2024

House Bill 305 - Outdoor Lighting - Standards and Use of State Funds

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to present **House Bill 305 - Outdoor Lighting - Standards and Use of State Funds**, which would require the Maryland Green Building Council to develop standards and update their specifications for outdoor lighting with consideration of the latest information on light pollution including color temperature recommendations of the American Medical Association.

With this legislation, state funds would not be allowed to be used to install or replace permanent outdoor luminaires for the lighting of any state building, facility, park, trail, or highway unless the luminaire is designed to maximize energy conservation, and minimize light pollution, glare, and light trespass. The luminaire installed must have a correlated light temperature that is less than or equal to 3,000 kelvin, which is the global recommendation from Dark Sky International. House Bill 627 addresses light pollution in the state of Maryland and its contribution to higher energy consumption, disruption of sleep patterns in humans, wildlife disruption, and limitations on nighttime military training.

Outdoor lighting can have detrimental effects on wildlife, human sleeping patterns, and energy consumption in Maryland. House Bill 305 is consistent with the goals of Maryland's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan by reducing the electricity consumption of lighting fixtures across Maryland.

I urge the committee to give a **favorable report** for **House Bill 305 - Outdoor Lighting - Standards and Use of State Funds**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jheanelle Wilkins".

Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins