



NATIONAL AQUARIUM®

Date: February 14, 2024

Bill: HB 305 – Outdoor Lighting – Standards and use of state funds

Position: Support

Dear Chair Korman and Members of the Committee:

The National Aquarium respectfully requests a favorable report for **House Bill 305 Outdoor Lighting – Standards and use of state funds**, which would expand existing law regarding state-funded outdoor lighting fixtures to also require that state-funded outdoor lighting for parks, trails and highways maximize energy conservation and minimize light pollution.

Combatting climate change and saving wildlife and habitats are two of the National Aquarium’s three strategic conservation goals. We applaud this legislation that would both increase energy efficiency of outdoor lighting while also improve upon the state’s ability to address harmful impacts of artificial light at night.

The impacts of light pollution are significant for thousands of species worldwide. Light pollution can be particularly harmful to nocturnal wildlife that rely on natural lighting patterns for navigation, nesting, mating and other behaviors key to survival. Outdoor lighting has been shown to lead to habitat loss and fragmentation in the ecosystems that wildlife depend upon.¹

The committee may want to consider additional language to ensure wildlife impacts are incorporated into the proposed lighting standards. As drafted, it is unclear whether wildlife impacts must be considered when developing outdoor lighting standards. We encourage “wildlife” be added to the list of considerations under §12-1301(A).

We appreciate your work on this important issue. **We urge the Committee to issue a favorable report.**

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¹ Sordello, R. et. al. 2022. A plea for a worldwide development of dark infrastructure for biodiversity – Practical examples and ways to go forward. *Landscape and Urban Planning* (219). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.landurbplan.2021.104332>