



## 104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

SB3037

Introduced 1/28/2026, by Sen. Laura Ellman

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

415 ILCS 200/1  
415 ILCS 200/10  
415 ILCS 200/15  
415 ILCS 200/20  
415 ILCS 200/22 new  
415 ILCS 200/25

Amends the Responsible Outdoor Lighting Control Act. Changes the short title of the Act to the Dark Sky Act. Provides that, beginning December 1, 2026, except for any lighting that a State agency has installed or is using on the effective date of the amendatory Act, all new or renovated luminaires that are purchased or rented with State funds for the purpose of outdoor illumination and any lighting that is installed on land or easements owned, leased, or managed by the State for the purpose of outdoor illumination, including, but not limited to, on roadways, facilities, properties, nonhabitable structures, monuments, and public right-of-way spaces shall comply with specified responsible outdoor lighting requirements. Makes exceptions to the requirements. Provides that a State agency may send a request to the Department of Central Management Services to seek an exemption when planning to install, purchase, or rent lighting under one or more of the listed exceptions to the requirements in the Act. Requires the Department of Central Management Services, within 30 days of receipt, to (i) grant the exemption by memorandum, (ii) deny the exemption by memorandum, or (iii) grant the exemption by failing to issue a memorandum. Makes conforming changes to provisions that apply to the Department of Natural Resources. Changes a definition. Makes technical changes. Effective immediately.

LRB104 16836 BDA 30245 b

1 AN ACT concerning safety.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Responsible Outdoor Lighting Control Act is  
5 amended by changing Sections 1, 10, 15, 20, and 25 and by  
6 adding Section 22 as follows:

7 (415 ILCS 200/1)

8 Sec. 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Dark Sky  
9 Act ~~Responsible Outdoor Lighting Control Act.~~

10 (Source: P.A. 103-1007, eff. 1-1-25.)

11 (415 ILCS 200/10)

12 Sec. 10. Definitions. As used in this Act:

13 "ANSI/IES standards" means the American National Standards  
14 Institute and Illuminating Engineering Society's lighting  
15 guidelines, also known as the IES Lighting Library Standards  
16 Collection.

17 "ANSI/IES standards" includes, but is not limited to:

18 (1) RP-6, which covers outdoor sports and recreational  
19 areas;

20 (2) RP-7, which covers outdoor industrial areas;

21 (3) RP-8, which covers roadway and parking facilities;

22 (4) RP-40, which covers port terminals; and

1           (5) RP-43, which covers outdoor pedestrian areas.

2           "Correlated color temperature" means the measure of the  
3 approximate spectrum of the color of light of an object as  
4 perceived by the eye, measured in degrees Kelvin.

5           "Fully shielded" means a luminaire that is constructed in  
6 such a manner that all light emitted, either directly from the  
7 lamp or indirectly by reflection or refraction from any part  
8 of the luminaire, is projected below the horizontal plane  
9 aligned with the bottom of the luminaire aperture, where no  
10 part of the lamp protrudes outside of the luminaire or shield.

11           "Glare" means light emitted by a luminaire that causes  
12 visual discomfort, reduced visibility of objects, or produces  
13 momentary blindness.

14           "Illuminating Engineering Society Backlight, Uplight, and  
15 Glare rating" or "IES BUG rating" means the luminaire  
16 classification system developed by the Illuminating  
17 Engineering Society that ranks and defines how many lumens of  
18 light a luminaire emits backwards, upwards, and in glare.

19           "Lamp" means the component of a luminaire that produces  
20 light.

21           "Light pollution" means the scattering of artificial light  
22 into the nighttime environment caused by excessive or  
23 improperly positioned artificial outdoor lighting resulting in  
24 sky glow, light trespass, or glare.

25           "Light trespass" means light emitted by a luminaire that  
26 shines beyond the boundaries of the property the luminaire is

1 intended to illuminate.

2 "Luminaire" means a complete installed or portable  
3 illuminating device, including a lamp, together with the parts  
4 designed to distribute the light, such as a reflector or  
5 refractor, parts to position and protect the lamps, and parts  
6 to connect the lamps to a power supply.

7 "Lumen" means a standard unit of measurement of luminous  
8 flux.

9 "Lux" means a standard unit of luminous flux expressed in  
10 lumens per square meter.

11 "Nadir" means the point on the ground that is directly  
12 below the center of a luminaire.

13 "Ornamental lighting" means a luminaire that has a  
14 historical or seasonal holiday purpose and that serves a  
15 historical or seasonal holiday purpose only.

16 "Outdoor luminaire" means installed or portable outdoor  
17 artificial illuminating devices used for flood lighting,  
18 roadway and area lighting, general illumination, or  
19 advertisement.

20 "Permanent outdoor luminaire" means exterior lighting or a  
21 system of lighting that is used in place for 7 or more days.

22 "Reflective roadway markings" means lines and markers with  
23 reflective properties intended to promote vehicular and  
24 pedestrian safety.

25 "Reflective signage" means roadway and informational  
26 signage that has reflective properties to aid with vehicular

1 and pedestrian safety.

2 "Responsible lighting principles" means the use of modern  
3 lighting technologies, including shielding, an upper limit on  
4 color temperature (2,700 Kelvin), on-off controls, dimming  
5 controls, and motion sensors.

6 "Roadway lighting" means permanent outdoor luminaires that  
7 are specifically intended to illuminate roadways for safe  
8 vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

9 "Sky glow" means the brightening of the night sky due to  
10 inefficiently and improperly lit areas.

11 (Source: P.A. 103-1007, eff. 1-1-25.)

12 (415 ILCS 200/15)

13 Sec. 15. Department of Natural Resources outdoor ~~Outdoor~~  
14 lighting control. All new luminaires purchased with State  
15 funds after the effective date of this Act or installed after  
16 the effective date of this Act on a structure or land that is  
17 owned and managed by the Department of Natural Resources,  
18 including roadways, facilities, properties, nonhabitable  
19 structures, monuments, and public right-of-way spaces,  
20 including sidewalks, with the intended purpose of outdoor  
21 illumination must follow, at a minimum, the following  
22 Department of Natural Resources outdoor lighting control  
23 requirements:

24 (1) Permanent outdoor luminaires must be fully  
25 shielded with an IES BUG rating and produce less than 1% of

1 its emitted light above 80 degrees from the downward  
2 vertical direction of nadir. Light shall ~~should~~ not be  
3 emitted at an angle above 60 degrees from the downward  
4 vertical direction of nadir.

5 (2) Luminaires must avoid light trespass by not  
6 exceeding an illuminance of one lux as measured at ground  
7 level both horizontally and vertically at the property  
8 boundary.

9 (3) Luminaires must have a correlated color  
10 temperature less than or equal to 2,700 Kelvin. In  
11 residential areas, dark sky locations, or environmentally  
12 sensitive areas, such as State parks and outdoor  
13 recreation facilities, correlated color temperature shall  
14 ~~should~~ be no more than 2,200 Kelvin.

15 (4) Outdoor lighting must be minimized to no more than  
16 25% above ANSI/IES standards or United States Department  
17 of Transportation recommendations.

18 (5) Facade lighting must be minimized to no more than  
19 25% above ANSI/IES standards, must project downward, and  
20 must not violate the light trespass limits in paragraph  
21 (2).

22 (6) When the installation or replacement of roadway  
23 lighting is planned, the appropriate authority must  
24 determine whether reflective roadway markings or  
25 reflective signage is appropriate and safe for the  
26 situation in lieu of outdoor lighting. Reflectorized

1 roadway markings, lines, warning signs, informational  
2 signs or other passive means must be used for roadway  
3 lighting, except at intersections of 2 or more streets or  
4 highways, unless it is determined that adequate safety  
5 cannot be achieved by reflective means.

6 (7) No artificial lighting above one lux, as measured  
7 at ground level both horizontally and vertically, may  
8 trespass onto land or waterways designated or managed as  
9 habitat, reserve, natural area, open space, or wilderness.

10 Beginning December 1, 2026, if any outdoor lighting  
11 control requirement listed under Section 22 establishes a  
12 greater or more stringent requirement than any requirement  
13 described in this Section, then the outdoor lighting control  
14 requirement listed under Section 22 shall prevail.

15 (Source: P.A. 103-1007, eff. 1-1-25.)

16 (415 ILCS 200/20)

17 Sec. 20. Department of Natural Resources outdoor lighting  
18 control exceptions. Exceptions. Section 15 of this Act ~~This~~  
19 ~~Act~~ does not apply if:

20 (1) the luminaires are on a structure or land that is  
21 owned, supported, funded, leased, or managed by the State  
22 in a county or municipality that, by ordinance or  
23 resolution, has adopted provisions that are equal to or  
24 more stringent than the provisions of this Act;

25 (2) a federal law or regulation preempts this Act;

1           (3) a State agency determines a safety or security  
2 need exists that cannot be addressed by any other method;

3           (4) fire, police, rescue, or repair personnel need  
4 light for temporary emergencies or road repair work;

5           (5) it has been determined that a reasonable safety  
6 and security interest exists at correctional or hospital  
7 facilities that cannot be addressed by another method as  
8 long as it complies with existing standards,  
9 specifications, or policies;

10          (6) navigational lighting systems and other lighting  
11 are necessary to comply with Federal Aviation  
12 Administration airside operations or nautical safety;

13          (7) lamps greater than 2,700 Kelvin are used on active  
14 sports grounds or show grounds, but only for the duration  
15 of a practice, match, or event. Lamps emitting greater  
16 than 2,700 Kelvin under this paragraph must be positioned,  
17 angled, or shielded to prevent direct glare and light  
18 trespass onto neighboring property or properties, and the  
19 positioning, angling, or shielding must limit upward light  
20 emission to only the amount necessary to light the  
21 sporting or grounds activity;

22          (8) flagpoles installed after the effective date of  
23 this Act are lit by means of a downward-facing lamp and  
24 using a lamp of 2,700 Kelvin or lower;

25          (9) flagpoles installed on or before the effective  
26 date of this Act are upward-lit by partially shielded or

1 unshielded luminaires using a lamp of 2,200 Kelvin or  
2 lower to minimize the impact of glare, light trespass, and  
3 sky glow and are converted to conform to requirements upon  
4 retrofitting;

5 (10) the luminaires ~~luminaries~~ are existing decorative  
6 and ornamental lighting that serve historical purposes,  
7 but replacement luminaires ~~luminaries~~ for the existing  
8 decorative and ornamental lighting must meet the standards  
9 of this Act; or

10 (11) the luminaires ~~luminaries~~ are temporary seasonal  
11 holiday lighting lasting no longer than 45 days  
12 surrounding the holiday season.

13 This Section shall not be construed to affect the  
14 application of Section 22 of this Act.

15 (Source: P.A. 103-1007, eff. 1-1-25.)

16 (415 ILCS 200/22 new)

17 Sec. 22. State agency outdoor lighting control;  
18 exceptions; enforcement; rulemaking.

19 (a) Beginning December 1, 2026, except for any lighting  
20 that a State agency has installed or is using on the effective  
21 date of this amendatory Act of the 104th General Assembly, all  
22 new or renovated luminaires that are purchased or rented with  
23 State funds for the purpose of outdoor illumination and any  
24 lighting that is installed on land or easements owned, leased,  
25 or managed by the State for the purpose of outdoor

1 illumination, including, but not limited to, on roadways,  
2 facilities, properties, nonhabitable structures, monuments,  
3 and public right-of-way spaces shall comply with the following  
4 State agency responsible outdoor lighting requirements:

5 (1) Outdoor lighting must be minimized to no more than  
6 25% above ANSI/IES standards.

7 (2) Luminaire light sources shall not be visible from  
8 a federal or State designated wilderness, natural area,  
9 habitat, or reserve, and related light trespass shall  
10 measure no greater than 0.1 lux.

11 (3) Luminaires emitting more than 1,000 lumens shall  
12 be designed or shielded in such a manner that no light is  
13 emitted, either directly or indirectly, at or above a  
14 horizontal plane running through the lowest light-emitting  
15 part of the luminaire, and shall emit no more than 5% of  
16 their total lumen output above 80 degrees from nadir.

17 (4) Nonessential outdoor lighting, including, but not  
18 limited to, landscape and decorative lighting elements,  
19 shall be extinguished between 10 p.m. and sunrise or 7  
20 a.m., whichever comes earlier, except that for businesses  
21 and events with operating hours later than 10 p.m.,  
22 nonessential outdoor lighting shall be extinguished  
23 between one hour after closing and sunrise or 7 a.m.,  
24 whichever comes earlier.

25 (5) The maximum correlated color temperature of  
26 outdoor luminaires is 3,000 Kelvin.

1           (6) 85% of lumens generated by sports lighting outdoor  
2           luminaires shall be confined to within 33 feet or a  
3           distance equal to one pole height, whichever is greater,  
4           of the playing field or the spectator track or bleacher  
5           area, whichever is greater.

6           (7) Outdoor aerial sports lighting applications shall  
7           have a maximum of 8% total lumen output above 80 degrees  
8           from nadir.

9           (8) Outdoor sports lighting shall use the lowest  
10           possible correlated color temperature for the sport, class  
11           of play, and viewing audience but shall never exceed 5,700  
12           Kelvin.

13           (b) This Section shall not apply to the following:

14           (1) lighting with outdoor lighting requirements that  
15           preempt State law under a federal law or regulation;

16           (2) lighting with alternative outdoor lighting  
17           requirements that are necessary for the safety of any  
18           person, as determined by the State agency or a unit of  
19           local government with jurisdiction;

20           (3) lighting with alternative outdoor lighting  
21           requirements that are necessary to protect people,  
22           property, or infrastructure from criminal threat, as  
23           determined by the State agency or a unit of local  
24           government with jurisdiction;

25           (4) temporary lighting used by law enforcement and  
26           authorized first responders during emergency procedures;

1           (5) luminaires replicating time period historical  
2           character and lighting effect that are protected by  
3           historical registration or that are otherwise permitted by  
4           the State agency or a unit of local government with  
5           jurisdiction for that purpose;

6           (6) special event lighting approved by the State  
7           agency or a unit of local government with jurisdiction,  
8           provided the permitted lighting meets light trespass  
9           requirements under this Act and does not add further  
10           disruption to ecological migration or habitat; or

11           (7) outdoor or site lighting that is portable,  
12           temporary, decorative, used in connection with holidays  
13           and traditions, and not intended for general illumination,  
14           including, but not limited to, string lighting, icicle  
15           lighting, and lighted inflatables that meet the  
16           requirements under this paragraph.

17           (c) Any State agency may send a request to the Department  
18           of Central Management Services to seek exemption under this  
19           Act when planning to install, purchase, or rent lighting. The  
20           request must contain one or more of the reasons under  
21           subsection (b) of this Section for any State agency or under  
22           Section 20 for the Department of Natural Resources. The  
23           Department of Central Management Services, within 30 days of  
24           its receipt of the request, shall (i) grant the exemption by  
25           memorandum, (ii) deny the exemption by memorandum, or (iii)  
26           grant the exemption by failing to issue a memorandum.

1       (d) The Department of Central Management Services shall  
2       adopt rules to implement, administer, and enforce this  
3       Section.

4           (415 ILCS 200/25)

5           Sec. 25. Other laws. If this Act conflicts with any other  
6       federal law, State law, or local ordinance controlling  
7       lighting, outdoor luminaires ~~luminaries~~, signage, outdoor  
8       advertising, displays, or devices that is more stringent than  
9       the Act, then the federal law, State law, or local ordinance  
10      controls to the extent it is more stringent than the Act.

11      (Source: P.A. 103-1007, eff. 1-1-25.)

12           Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
13      becoming law.