

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 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the  
5 Responsible Outdoor Lighting Control Act.

6 Section 5. Findings. The General Assembly finds that:

7 (1) Article XI of the Illinois Constitution states the  
8 public policy of the State and the duty of each person is  
9 to provide and maintain a healthful environment for the  
10 benefit of this and future generations and that the  
11 General Assembly shall provide by law for the  
12 implementation and enforcement of this policy.

13 (2) The House of Representatives has resolved in House  
14 Resolution 884 of the 96th General Assembly to (i) express  
15 its support for improved night preservation practices in  
16 Illinois, (ii) encourage State agencies to adopt suitable  
17 outdoor lighting practices based on the principles of  
18 applying artificial light only where it is needed, when it  
19 is needed, and to only the levels needed using the best  
20 safety and energy-efficient standards available, and (iii)  
21 encourage the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center of  
22 the University of Illinois to provide artificial outdoor  
23 illumination engineering assistance to State agencies,

1 municipalities, and businesses that seek to implement  
2 responsible outdoor lighting to conserve and preserve the  
3 important natural phenomenon of night.

4 (3) The Senate has resolved in Senate Resolution 64 of  
5 the 103rd General Assembly that local governments in  
6 Illinois should abide by the International Dark-Sky  
7 Association (now known as Dark Sky International)  
8 guidelines and lighting principles to help mitigate the  
9 effects of light pollution produced by outdoor lighting.

10 (4) The State should promote responsible outdoor  
11 lighting.

12 (5) Government structures, facilities, places, and  
13 spaces should serve as models of best practices for  
14 private structures, facilities, places, and spaces. These  
15 government structures, facilities, places, and spaces  
16 should encourage residents, business owners, and others to  
17 join in transitioning to responsible lighting.

18 Section 10. Definitions. As used in this Act:

19 "ANSI/IES standards" means the American National Standards  
20 Institute and Illuminating Engineering Society's lighting  
21 guidelines, also known as the IES Lighting Library Standards  
22 Collection.

23 "Correlated color temperature" means the measure of the  
24 approximate spectrum of the color of light of an object as  
25 perceived by the eye, measured in degrees Kelvin.

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

7 "Glare" means light emitted by a luminaire that causes  
8 visual discomfort, reduced visibility of objects, or produces  
9 momentary blindness.

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

15 "Lamp" means the component of a luminaire that produces  
16 light.

17 "Light pollution" means the scattering of artificial light  
18 into the nighttime environment caused by excessive or  
19 improperly positioned artificial outdoor lighting resulting in  
20 sky glow, light trespass, or glare.

21 "Light trespass" means light emitted by a luminaire that  
22 shines beyond the boundaries of the property the luminaire is  
23 intended to illuminate.

24 "Luminaire" means a complete installed or portable  
25 illuminating device, including a lamp, together with the parts  
26 designed to distribute the light, such as a reflector or

1 refractor, parts to position and protect the lamps, and parts  
2 to connect the lamps to a power supply.

3 "Lumen" means a standard unit of measurement of luminous  
4 flux.

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

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

9 "Ornamental lighting" means a luminaire that has a  
10 historical or seasonal holiday purpose and that serves a  
11 historical or seasonal holiday purpose only.

12 "Outdoor luminaire" means installed or portable outdoor  
13 artificial illuminating devices used for flood lighting,  
14 roadway and area lighting, general illumination, or  
15 advertisement.

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

18 "Reflective roadway markings" means lines and markers with  
19 reflective properties intended to promote vehicular and  
20 pedestrian safety.

21 "Reflective signage" means roadway and informational  
22 signage that has reflective properties to aid with vehicular  
23 and pedestrian safety.

24 "Responsible lighting principles" means the use of modern  
25 lighting technologies, including shielding, an upper limit on  
26 color temperature (2,700 Kelvin), on-off controls, dimming

1 controls, and motion sensors.

2 "Roadway lighting" means permanent outdoor luminaires that  
3 are specifically intended to illuminate roadways for safe  
4 vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

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

7 Section 15. Outdoor lighting control. All new luminaires  
8 purchased with State funds after the effective date of this  
9 Act or installed after the effective date of this Act on a  
10 structure or land that is owned and managed by the Department  
11 of Natural Resources, including roadways, facilities,  
12 properties, nonhabitable structures, monuments, and public  
13 right-of-way spaces, including sidewalks, with the intended  
14 purpose of outdoor illumination must follow the following  
15 outdoor lighting control requirements:

16 (1) Permanent outdoor luminaires must be fully  
17 shielded with an IES BUG rating and produce less than 1% of  
18 its emitted light above 80 degrees from the downward  
19 vertical direction of nadir. Light should not be emitted  
20 at an angle above 60 degrees from the downward vertical  
21 direction of nadir.

22 (2) Luminaires must avoid light trespass by not  
23 exceeding an illuminance of one lux as measured at ground  
24 level both horizontally and vertically at the property  
25 boundary.

1           (3) Luminaires must have a correlated color  
2 temperature less than or equal to 2,700 Kelvin. In  
3 residential areas, dark sky locations, or environmentally  
4 sensitive areas, such as State parks and outdoor  
5 recreation facilities, correlated color temperature should  
6 be no more than 2,200 Kelvin.

7           (4) Outdoor lighting must be minimized to no more than  
8 25% above ANSI/IES standards or United States Department  
9 of Transportation recommendations.

10          (5) Facade lighting must be minimized to no more than  
11 25% above ANSI/IES standards, must project downward, and  
12 must not violate the light trespass limits in paragraph  
13 (2).

14          (6) When the installation or replacement of roadway  
15 lighting is planned, the appropriate authority must  
16 determine whether reflective roadway markings or  
17 reflective signage is appropriate and safe for the  
18 situation in lieu of outdoor lighting. Reflectorized  
19 roadway markings, lines, warning signs, informational  
20 signs or other passive means must be used for roadway  
21 lighting, except at intersections of 2 or more streets or  
22 highways, unless it is determined that adequate safety  
23 cannot be achieved by reflective means.

24          (7) No artificial lighting above one lux, as measured  
25 at ground level both horizontally and vertically, may  
26 trespass onto land or waterways designated or managed as

1 habitat, reserve, natural area, open space, or wilderness.

2 Section 20. Exceptions. This Act does not apply if:

3 (1) the luminaires are on a structure or land that is  
4 owned, supported, funded, leased, or managed by the State  
5 in a county or municipality that, by ordinance or  
6 resolution, has adopted provisions that are equal to or  
7 more stringent than the provisions of this Act;

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

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

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

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

18 (6) navigational lighting systems and other lighting  
19 are necessary to comply with Federal Aviation  
20 Administration airside operations or nautical safety;

21 (7) lamps greater than 2,700 Kelvin are used on active  
22 sports grounds or show grounds, but only for the duration  
23 of a practice, match, or event. Lamps emitting greater  
24 than 2,700 Kelvin under this paragraph must be positioned,  
25 angled, or shielded to prevent direct glare and light

1 trespass onto neighboring property or properties, and the  
2 positioning, angling, or shielding must limit upward light  
3 emission to only the amount necessary to light the  
4 sporting or grounds activity;

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

8 (9) flagpoles installed on or before the effective  
9 date of this Act are upward-lit by partially shielded or  
10 unshielded luminaires using a lamp of 2,200 Kelvin or  
11 lower to minimize the impact of glare, light trespass, and  
12 sky glow and are converted to conform to requirements upon  
13 retrofitting;

14 (10) the luminaries are existing decorative and  
15 ornamental lighting that serve historical purposes, but  
16 replacement luminaries for the existing decorative and  
17 ornamental lighting must meet the standards of this Act;  
18 or

19 (11) the luminaries are temporary seasonal holiday  
20 lighting lasting no longer than 45 days surrounding the  
21 holiday season.

22 Section 25. Other laws. If this Act conflicts with any  
23 other federal law, State law, or local ordinance controlling  
24 lighting, outdoor luminaries, signage, outdoor advertising,  
25 displays, or devices that is more stringent than the Act, then



1 the federal law, State law, or local ordinance controls to the  
2 extent it is more stringent than the Act.

3 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect January  
4 1, 2025.