

YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

House Bill Number 338

Legislative Action:

Introduced by: Brianna Beswick

House Committee: _____

Authored by: Brianna Beswick

House: _____

Senate Committee: _____

Delegation: Bozeman

Senate: _____

Governor: _____

Referred to Committee: House Health & Human Services Committee

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO PROTECT MONTANA'S NIGHT SKY."

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3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE MONTANA YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE:

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5 **Section 1. Definitions.** "Light pollution" shall be defined as excess or obtrusive light created by
6 humans. During the night, this light can pose safety concerns while driving due to the glare, and
7 has been linked to increases in stress and possibly even cancer. It also has negative impacts on
8 nocturnal wildlife and the feeding and breeding cycles of all types of animals. Improper lighting
9 can even lead to increased crime. The US wastes approximately \$10.4 billion dollars a year in
10 the inefficient lighting that causes light pollution.

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12 "Full-cutoff lighting" shall be defined as light fixtures that allow no direct light from above the
13 horizontal plane (similar to lampshades).

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15 **Section 2. Provisions.** All lights in Montana to be used at night shall be required to be full-cutoff
16 light fixtures with watts of 200 or less.

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18 **Section 3. Funding.** Funding for the replacement of all government-owned light fixtures shall
19 come from the General Fund. This will be supplemented by any fines collected from those in
20 non-compliance with the lighting ordinance. Also, although exact figures are hard to pin down,
21 approximately 30% of lighting is being wasted right now. By replacing these lights with full-
22 cutoff light fixtures, energy costs will go down, saving the Montana government money at the
23 same time as increasing safety, creating a clearer sky, and improving the environment for
24 wildlife and humans.

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26 **Section 4. Penalties.** Offenders shall be fined by local Building Inspection Divisions and must
27 replace the old light fixtures.

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29 **Section 5. Enactment Date.** This act will become effective upon passage. All businesses,
30 private homes, and government facilities shall have until January 2008 to comply.

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