



# House of Representatives

**File No. 634**

General Assembly

February Session, 2002

**(Reprint of File No. 138)**

Substitute House Bill No. 5532  
As Amended by House  
Amendment Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner  
May 4, 2002

**AN ACT REQUIRING REDUCTION IN GLARE AND LIGHT POLLUTION  
FROM PRIVATE AREA FLOODLIGHTING LOCATED WITHIN THE  
STATE RIGHT-OF-WAY.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General  
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a  
2 Commission to Study the Extent, Causes and Consequences of Light  
3 Pollution in Connecticut.

4 (b) The commission shall consist of the following members:

5 (1) Four appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,  
6 one of whom shall be a member of the General Assembly, one of  
7 whom shall represent science educators at the secondary school level,  
8 and two of whom shall represent environmental organizations;

9 (2) Four appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one  
10 of whom shall be a member of the General Assembly, one of whom  
11 shall represent municipal governments, and two of whom shall  
12 represent the Connecticut Dark Sky Association;

13 (3) Two appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
14 Representatives, one of whom shall be a member of the General  
15 Assembly and one of whom shall represent an electric distribution  
16 company, as defined in section 16-1 of the general statutes, as  
17 amended, which has seven hundred fifty thousand or more customers;

18 (4) Two appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, one of  
19 whom shall be a member of the General Assembly and one of whom  
20 shall represent an electric distribution company, as defined in section  
21 16-1 of the general statutes, as amended, which has less than seven  
22 hundred fifty thousand customers;

23 (5) Five appointed by the Governor, one each of whom shall  
24 represent the professional astronomy community of the state, the  
25 amateur astronomy community of the state, the Illuminating  
26 Engineering Society of North America, the National Electrical  
27 Manufacturers Association, and state or municipal law enforcement;

28 (6) One appointed by the Commissioner of Environmental  
29 Protection, who shall be an employee of the Department of  
30 Environmental Protection;

31 (7) One appointed by the chairperson of the Public Utilities Control  
32 Authority, who shall be an employee of the authority;

33 (8) One appointed by the Commissioner of Transportation, who  
34 shall be an employee of the Department of Transportation;

35 (9) One appointed by the Commissioner of Public Works, who shall  
36 be an employee of the Department of Public Works;

37 (10) One appointed by the Connecticut Energy Advisory Board,  
38 who shall represent the board; and

39 (11) One appointed by the Connecticut Energy Conservation Board,  
40 who shall represent the board.

41 (c) All appointments to the commission shall be made no later than

42 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be  
43 filled by the appointing authority. The members of the commission  
44 shall serve without compensation. The commission shall elect a  
45 chairperson from its membership.

46 (d) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the  
47 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to  
48 government administration shall serve as administrative staff of the  
49 commission.

50 (e) The commission shall:

51 (1) Study and document the sources of light pollution in  
52 Connecticut;

53 (2) Study and document the consequences of light pollution in  
54 Connecticut, including its impact on driving safety, nocturnal fauna,  
55 astronomical research and observation, the natural beauty of the night  
56 sky, and such other consequences the commission determines are  
57 appropriate for its attention;

58 (3) Survey and document the technology and standards currently  
59 available to minimize light pollution;

60 (4) Study outdoor lighting on the grounds of state buildings and  
61 facilities and make recommendations for installing or replacing  
62 outdoor luminaries at such locations to reduce light pollution, glare  
63 and light trespass and reduce the state's costs associated with outdoor  
64 lighting;

65 (5) Estimate the potential costs and savings in the state, including  
66 the potential impact on the budgets of municipalities, associated with  
67 the adoption of lighting practices that minimize light pollution while  
68 meeting important illumination and safety lighting requirements;

69 (6) Prepare recommendations for public and private action to  
70 minimize light pollution in Connecticut, including, but not limited to,  
71 appropriate legislation and regulation for consideration by the General

72 Assembly and municipalities; and

73 (7) Make recommendations for documenting the state's progress in  
74 reducing light pollution, restoring the night sky, and reducing  
75 electricity use and public expense.

76 (f) Not later than January 8, 2003, the commission shall submit a  
77 preliminary report on its findings and recommendations to the  
78 General Assembly, and not later than December 1, 2003, the  
79 commission shall submit a final report on its findings and  
80 recommendations to the General Assembly. Said reports shall be  
81 submitted in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the  
82 general statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date that it  
83 submits the final report or December 1, 2003, whichever is earlier.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

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### **OFA Fiscal Note**

#### **State Impact:**

<b>Fund-Type</b>	<b>Agency Affected</b>	<b>FY 03 \$</b>
GF - Cost	Legislative Mgmt.; Environmental Protection, Dept.; Pub. Works, Dept.; Transportation, Dept.; Public Utility Control, Dept.	Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

#### **Explanation**

The bill establishes a Commission to Study the Extent, Causes and Consequences of Light Pollution in Connecticut and make preliminary recommendations to the General Assembly by January 8, 2003, and a final report by December 1, 2003. It appoints employees of the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Public Utility Control, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Public Works, and the Connecticut Energy Advisory Board. It is anticipated that these agencies will incur minimal costs to serve on the commission.

To the extent that members of the General Assembly are appointed to the task force, the Joint Committee on Legislative Management will incur a minimal cost. A total cost of less than \$5,000 may result from mileage reimbursement to legislators in traveling to and from panel meetings, public hearings and regional forums. Legislators are currently reimbursed 36 ½ cents per mile. Considering that legislators may be traveling to and from the capitol on other legislative business, any additional cost due to an increased number of reimbursed trips could be handled within the anticipated budgetary resources of the

agency. The bill also requires that the administrative staff to the Government Administration and Elections Committee serve as administrative staff to the commission. This may require a reallocation of work by the committee staff.

House Amendment "A" eliminates the original bill and its associated potentially significant cost and replaces it with the current language and minimal one-time FY 03 costs.

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**OLR Bill Analysis**

sHB 5532

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**SUMMARY:**

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze special acts.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Transportation Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 22 Nay 6

Energy and Technology Committee

Joint Favorable To the Floor

Yea 11 Nay 2

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 28 Nay 9

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 32 Nay 18