

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center

H.B. 916  
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State Affairs  
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Engrossed

### **DIGEST**

Currently, outdoor lighting is intended to illuminate a specific place on the ground, such as a curve in the road, a parking lot, or a sidewalk. However, in addition to these specific targets, fixtures can illuminate the entire sphere of space around them. This effect can create a safety hazard by sending light directly into the eyes of drivers and pedestrians. It may also, raise state utility costs, and negatively impact the natural night environment. H.B. 916 serves three functions: it reduces state utility costs by introducing conservation measures for outdoor lighting, preserves the natural night environment by reducing light pollution, and by installing a shield in the lighting fixtures, it reduces the glare for drivers and pedestrians.

### **PURPOSE**

As proposed, H.B. 916 establishes conditions regarding the regulation of outdoor lighting at state-funded entities.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

This bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Title 5E, Health and Safety Code, by adding Chapter 421, as follows:

#### CHAPTER 421. REGULATION OF CERTAIN OUTDOOR LIGHTING

Sec. 421.001. DEFINITIONS. Defines "cutoff luminaire," "light pollution," "outdoor lighting fixture," and "state funds."

Sec. 421.002. STANDARDS FOR STATE-FUNDED OUTDOOR LIGHTING FIXTURES. Sets forth provisions by which an outdoor lighting fixture may be installed, replaced, maintained, or operated using state funds. Defines "energy conservation." Provides that Subsection (a) does not apply if certain conditions exist. Provides that certain special events or situations may require additional illumination. Requires illumination for special events or situations to be installed to shield the outdoor lighting fixtures from direct view and to minimize upward lighting and light pollution.

SECTION 2. Amends the heading to Title 5E, Health and Safety Code, as follows:

SUBTITLE E. New heading: LIGHT POLLUTION.

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 1999.  
Makes application of this Act prospective.

SECTION 4. Emergency clause.