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HOUSE BILL 1630

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State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Representatives Eddy, Springer, Hudgins, Simpson, and Hasegawa

Read first time 01/26/09. Referred to Committee on Technology, Energy & Communications.

1 AN ACT Relating to energy conservation in public education  
2 institutions; adding a new chapter to Title 39 RCW; and providing an  
3 effective date.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds and declares the  
6 following:

7 (a) Public educational facilities that are funded by the government  
8 are not required to turn off their electrical machinery or lighting  
9 systems when the buildings are unoccupied;

10 (b) Failure to turn off electrical lighting systems in unoccupied  
11 public educational facilities wastes valuable governmental resources  
12 that could be used for more important educational purposes; and

13 (c) Turning off all electrical lighting systems in unoccupied  
14 public educational facilities nationwide could save the government  
15 millions of tax dollars per year.

16 (2) Therefore, it is the intent of the legislature to direct public  
17 educational facilities to turn off electrical lighting systems when  
18 their facilities are unoccupied in order to conserve electricity and  
19 avoid unnecessary state spending.

1        NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    The definitions in this section apply  
2 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

3        (1) "Electrical light" means any light that functions by means of  
4 electricity, which may include, but is not limited to: Indoor lights,  
5 security cameras, or stadium lighting.

6        (2) "Facility" includes any building that houses constituents of  
7 public educational facilities, which may include, but is not limited  
8 to, teachers, students, teacher aides, administrators, janitorial  
9 staff, and security officers.

10       (3) "Fluorescent" means any lighting device that uses ultraviolet  
11 light by means of a cathode ray tube.

12       (4) "Public educational facility" means any institution of higher  
13 education as defined in RCW 28B.10.016 and any public school under  
14 title 28A RCW.

15       NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 3.**    (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of  
16 this section, public educational facilities must turn off all  
17 electrical lights when the facility is unoccupied.

18       (2) This section does not apply to electrical lights that are  
19 installed for security purposes if:

20       (a) The electrical lights function by means of fluorescence; or

21       (b) A motion detector is attached to the electrical light and only  
22 functions when activated.

23       NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 4.**    This act may be known and cited as the  
24 electricity in public schools act.

25       NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 5.**    This act takes effect August 1, 2009.

26       NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 6.**    Sections 1 through 5 of this act constitute  
27 a new chapter in Title 39 RCW.

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