

LFC Requester:

Joseph Simon

**NMDOT NO IMPACT STATEMENT  
2025 REGULAR SESSION**

*{Include the bill no. in the email subject line, e.g., HB2, and only attach one bill analysis and related documentation per email message}*

**SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION**

*{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute, or a correction of a previous bill}*

*Check all that apply:*

**Date Prepared:** 2/17/2025

**Original**  X  **Amendment** \_\_\_\_\_

**Bill No.** SB 34

**Correction** \_\_\_\_\_ **Substitute** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsor:** Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics,  
Matthew McQueen, Christine  
Chandler, and Peter Wirth

**Agency/ Code:** NMDOT - 805 - OGC

**Short Title** Outdoor Light Requirements  
& Exemptions

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**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT**

Minimal to none.

**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Not applicable.

**REVENUE (dollars in thousands)**

Not applicable.

**ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)**

Minimal to none.

**SECTION III: NARRATIVE**

**BILL SUMMARY**

Senate Bill 34 (SB 34) makes several changes to outdoor lighting to reduce light pollution. One way it does this is by measuring light pollution in lumens. Lumens are “an international standard of measurement that quantifies the amount of light emitted by a light source.”

SB 34 narrows the cone of light emitted from an elevated light fixture by requiring shields on light fixtures that allow no more than five percent of the light emitted to be at or above ten degrees below the horizontal plane of the fixture, measured from the lowest point on the fixture. The current standard is ten percent.

Lighting fixtures that are mounted less than four feet from the ground are prohibited from projecting light of greater than 1000 lumens toward the sky. Strings of small lights or temporary holiday lights are exempted from this requirement.

There are also specific exemptions for road signs, navigational lights, and outdoor lighting in specific industries, as well as temporary lighting on movies sets and construction zones. There is also a provision grandfathering in existing fixtures. SB 34 does not preempt local ordinances that are more stringent.

## **NO IMPACT STATEMENT**

The bill grandfathers in existing, non-compliant fixtures so it would not require the NMDOT to make any immediate changes to existing roadway lighting. Furthermore, at least some of the vendors that NMDOT is currently sourcing light fixtures from are already compliant with the five percent requirement. Accordingly, SB 34 will have no fiscal, operational, administrative or other impact on the NMDOT.

## **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

For future construction the smaller cone of light permitted might require additional lighting fixtures in some lighted areas and may require changes in lighting design. Additional lighting fixtures would also require more maintenance. These changes are not expected to be significant and would fall within existing budgets.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

None.

## **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

None.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

None.

## **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

None.

## **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

None.

## **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

None.

**ALTERNATIVES**

None.

**WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

Status Quo.

**AMENDMENTS**

None.