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YMCA YOUTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

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Senate Bill Number 137  
Introduced By: Maggie Massey  
Authored By: Maggie Massey

Legislative Action:  
House of Committee: \_\_\_\_\_  
House: \_\_\_\_\_  
Senate Committee: \_\_\_\_\_  
Senate: \_\_\_\_\_  
Governor: \_\_\_\_\_

Delegation: Bozeman High School

Referred to Committee: Senate Natural Resources & Transportation Committee

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1 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO SAVE OUR NOCTURNAL FRIENDS ."
2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE MONTANA STATE YOUTH LEGISLATURE:

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

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

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

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

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

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28 **Section 5. Enactment Date.** This act will become effective upon passage. All businesses,
29 private homes, and government facilities shall have until September 2010 to comply.

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31 -END-