



DATE: May 8, 2023
TO: Committee on Environment and Natural Resources
FROM: Samantha Warren, UMS Director of Government & Community Relations
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RE: **LD 1845, An Act to Regulate Outdoor Lighting**

Senator Brenner, Representative Gramlich and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources: I am writing today on behalf of the University of Maine System (UMS) to inform your consideration of LD 1845, *An Act to Regulate Outdoor Lighting*.

UMS is still working to understand the applicability to our public universities of the bill's provisions, though we believe most outdoor lights across our statewide System meet the standards being proposed.

However, if LD 1845 does apply to UMS, we have already identified more than 100 outdoor lights at one of our rural regional campuses that would need to be replaced and for which the fixtures are not compatible with lighting shields.

We estimate **the cost to that public university to come into compliance would be at least \$400,000, which could not be undertaken within existing budget resources.** This fiscal note reflects retrofitting of existing light fixtures, as well as the addition of new light fixtures that would need to be installed to ensure adequate coverage, as the required downlights would not illuminate as much square footage.

Assuming LD 1845 becomes law 90 days after the adjournment of this special session, we also have concern about our System's ability to secure a vendor through our competitive procurement process and have the required work completed in the short period between that date and Jan. 1, 2024.

Given this, **UMS requests that the Committee consider amending the current bill to allow for replacement of existing lighting units when they become nonfunctional, rather than by Jan. 1, 2024.**

Maine's public universities appreciate the intent of this bill and share its supporters' commitment to reducing light pollution while maintaining appropriate illumination of our campuses to promote safety. The System will work with our facilities management professionals to further understand the impact of LD 1845 on Maine's public universities, and welcome conversation with the Committee about how to best amend the bill to achieve its goals within a reasonable timeframe and budgetary resources.

Please let me know if I can provide additional information for your work session.