

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2023

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HOUSE BILL 570

Short Title: Efficient Government Buildings & Savings Act. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Zenger, Winslow, Crutchfield, and Saine (Primary Sponsors).

For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Energy and Public Utilities, if favorable, State Government, if favorable, Rules,
Calendar, and Operations of the House

April 6, 2023

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO SAVE NORTH CAROLINA TAXPAYER DOLLARS BY REQUIRING
REDUCTIONS IN ENERGY AND WATER CONSUMPTION IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS
BY 2030.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1.(a) G.S. 143-64.12 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 143-64.12. Authority and duties of the Department; State agencies and State institutions
of higher learning.**

(a) The Department of Environmental Quality through the State Energy Office shall develop a comprehensive program to manage energy, water, and other utility use for State agencies and State institutions of higher learning and shall update this program annually. Each State agency and State institution of higher learning shall develop and implement a management plan that is consistent with the State's comprehensive program under this subsection to manage energy, water, and other utility use, ~~and that addresses any findings or recommendations resulting from the energy audit required by subsection (b1) of this section.~~ use. The energy consumption per gross square foot for all State buildings in total shall be reduced by twenty percent (20%) by ~~2010 and 2010,~~ thirty percent (30%) by ~~2015-2015,~~ and forty percent (40%) by 2030 based on energy consumption for the 2002-2003 fiscal year. Each State agency and State institution of higher learning shall update its management plan biennially and include strategies for supporting the energy consumption reduction requirements under this subsection. Each community college shall submit to the State Energy Office ~~a biennial~~ an annual written report of utility consumption and costs. Management plans submitted biennially by State institutions of higher learning shall include all of the following:

...

(b1) The Department of Administration, as part of the Facilities Condition and Assessment Program, shall identify and recommend energy conservation maintenance and operating procedures that are designed to reduce energy consumption within the facility of a State agency or a State institution of higher learning and that require no significant expenditure of funds. Every State agency or State institution of higher learning shall implement these recommendations. Where energy management equipment is proposed for any facility of a State agency or of a State institution of higher learning, the maximum interchangeability and compatibility of equipment components shall be required. ~~As part of the Facilities Condition and Assessment Program under this section, the Department of Administration, in consultation with the State Energy Office, shall develop an energy audit and a procedure for conducting energy audits. Every five years the~~



~~Department shall conduct an energy audit for each State agency or State institution of higher learning, and the energy audits conducted shall serve as a preliminary energy survey. The State Energy Office shall be responsible for system-level detailed surveys.~~

~~(b2) The Department of Administration shall submit a report of the energy audit required by subsection (b1) of this section to the affected State agency or State institution of higher learning and to the State Energy Office. The State Energy Office shall review each audit and, in consultation with the affected State agency or State institution of higher learning, incorporate the audit findings and recommendations into the management plan required by subsection (a) of this section.~~

~~...."~~

SECTION 1.(b) Article 3B of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

"§ 143-64.12A. Responsible lights out.

All State agencies and institutions of higher learning shall ensure that lighting in unoccupied interior spaces and upward-directed flood lighting is turned off, where feasible, on the premises of all buildings owned or leased by the State agency or institution of higher learning from midnight until 6:00 A.M., unless required for safety, emergency, or insurance purposes. The building manager or property manager of each premises owned or leased by a State agency or institution of higher learning, or an appropriate designee, shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with this section."

SECTION 2. G.S. 143-64.17 reads as rewritten:

"§ 143-64.17. Definitions.

As used in this Part:

- (1) "Energy conservation measure" means a facility or meter alteration, training, or services related to the operation of the facility or meter, when the alteration, training, or services provide anticipated energy ~~savings~~ generate revenue, or capture lost revenue. Energy conservation measure includes any of the following:
 - a. Insulation of the building structure and systems within the building-building, including proper building envelope and duct sealing of all applicable areas in the building.
 - b. Storm windows or doors, caulking, weatherstripping, multiglazed windows or doors, heat-absorbing or heat-reflective glazed or coated window or door systems, additional glazing, reductions in glass area, or other window or door system modifications that reduce energy consumption.
 - c. Automatic energy control systems.
 - d. Heating, ventilating, or air-conditioning system modifications or replacements.
 - e. Replacement or modification of lighting fixtures to increase the energy efficiency of a lighting system without increasing the overall illumination of a facility, unless an increase in illumination is necessary to conform to the applicable State or local building code or is required by the light system after the proposed modifications are made.
 - f. Energy recovery systems.
 - g. Cogeneration systems that produce steam or forms of energy such as heat, as well as electricity, for use primarily within a building or complex of buildings.

- h. Repealed by Session Laws 2006-190, s. 2, effective August 3, 2006, and applicable to contracts entered into or renewed on or after that date.
- i. Faucets with automatic or metered shut-off valves, leak detection equipment, water meters, water recycling equipment, and wastewater recovery systems.
- j. Other energy conservation measures that conserve energy, water, or other utilities.
- k. Building analytics systems that allow for advanced software utilizing statistical modeling and machine learning, whether supervised or unsupervised, to establish data-driven benchmarks, predict future energy performance, and find additional energy savings opportunities.
- (2) "Energy savings" means a measured reduction in fuel costs, energy costs, water costs, stormwater fees, other utility costs, or operating costs, including environmental discharge fees, water and sewer maintenance fees, and increased meter accuracy, created from the implementation of one or more energy conservation measures when compared with an established baseline of previous costs, including captured lost revenues or generated revenues, developed by the governmental unit.

...."

SECTION 3. G.S. 143-135.37 reads as rewritten:

"§ 143-135.37. Energy and water use standards for public major facility construction and renovation projects; verification and reporting of energy and water use.

...

(b) Energy-Efficiency Standard. – For every major facility construction project of a public agency, the building shall be designed and constructed so that the calculated energy consumption is at least ~~thirty percent (30%)~~ forty percent (40%) less than the energy consumption for the same building as calculated using the energy-efficiency standard in ASHRAE 90.1-2004. For every major facility renovation project of a public agency, the renovated building shall be designed and constructed so that the calculated energy consumption is at least ~~twenty percent (20%)~~ thirty percent (30%) less than the energy consumption for the same renovated building as calculated using the energy-efficiency standard in ASHRAE 90.1-2004. For the purposes of this subsection, any exception or special standard for a specific type of building found in ASHRAE 90.1-2004 is included in the ASHRAE 90.1-2004 standard.

(c) Indoor Potable Water Use Standard. – For every major facility construction or renovation project of a public agency, the water system shall be designed and constructed so that the calculated indoor potable water use is at least ~~twenty percent (20%)~~ thirty percent (30%) less than the indoor potable water use for the same building as calculated using the fixture performance requirements related to plumbing under the 2006 North Carolina State Building Code.

(c1) Outdoor Potable Water Use Standard. – For every major facility construction project of a public agency, the water system shall be designed and constructed so that the calculated sum of the outdoor potable water use and the harvested stormwater use is at least fifty percent (50%) less than the sum of the outdoor potable water use and the harvested stormwater use for the same building as calculated using the performance requirements related to plumbing under the 2006 North Carolina State Building Code. Weather-based irrigation controllers shall be used for irrigation systems for major facility construction projects. For every major facility renovation project of a public agency, the Department shall determine on a project-by-project basis what reduced level of outdoor potable use or harvested stormwater use, if any, is a feasible requirement for the project. Whenever practicable, every major facility construction project or major facility renovation project of a public agency shall maintain or restore the predevelopment hydrology to

1 reduce the rate and volume of stormwater runoff. The Department shall not require a greater
2 reduction than is required under this subsection for a major facility construction project. To
3 reduce the potable outdoor water as required under this subsection, weather-based irrigation
4 controllers, landscape materials that are water use efficient, and irrigation strategies that include
5 reuse and recycling of the water may be used.

6"

7 **SECTION 4.(a)** Each State agency and State institution of higher learning shall, no
8 later than October 1, 2024, conduct a preliminary practicality and economic feasibility analysis
9 of implementing energy conservation measures for all buildings greater than 20,000 square feet
10 in size and that have been in use for more than 10 years. Energy conservation measures are
11 deemed to be economically feasible if the resulting energy savings will cover the cost of
12 implementing the measures within 10 years. Each State agency and State institution of higher
13 learning shall submit its findings to the State Energy Office. If the agency or institution of higher
14 learning determines that it is not practical or economically feasible to implement energy
15 conservation measures, the agency or institution of higher learning shall include findings of fact
16 supporting that determination in the findings it submits to the State Energy Office. If the State
17 agency or State institution of higher learning determines that it is practical and economically
18 feasible to implement energy conservation measures, the agency or institution of higher learning
19 shall do so. The energy conservation measures may be achieved by issuing a request for proposal
20 for a guaranteed energy savings contract for all covered buildings owned by the agency or
21 institution of higher learning. If the agency or institution of higher learning issues a request for
22 proposal for a guaranteed energy savings contract for one or more buildings, the agency or
23 institution of higher learning shall issue the request for proposal no later than April 1, 2025. The
24 agency or institution of higher learning shall follow the process provided in Part 2 of Article 3B
25 of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes. The definitions provided in G.S. 143-64.17 shall apply
26 for purposes of this section.

27 **SECTION 4.(b)** No later than October 1, 2029, each State agency and State
28 institution of higher learning shall repeat the process set forth in subsection (a) of this section for
29 all buildings greater than 10,000 square feet in size and that have been in use for more than 10
30 years. If the agency or institution of higher learning issues a request for proposal for a guaranteed
31 energy savings contract for one or more buildings, the agency or institution of higher learning
32 shall issue the request for proposal no later than April 1, 2030.

33 **SECTION 4.(c)** This section shall not apply to any building for which a practicality
34 and economic feasibility analysis of implementing energy conservation measures has been
35 conducted within three years prior to the effective date of this section.

36 **SECTION 4.(d)** In implementing this section, a State agency or State institution of
37 higher learning may include additional improvements and upgrades to provide healthy indoor
38 environments, increase resilience, conserve water resources, and apply to building sustainability
39 rating or certification systems.

40 **SECTION 4.(e)** This section is effective when it becomes law. This section shall not
41 be interpreted to prohibit any State agency or State institution of higher learning from issuing
42 any request for proposal for a guaranteed energy savings contract.

43 **SECTION 5.(a)** For purposes of this act, "State institution of higher learning" has
44 the same meaning as in G.S. 143-64.11.

45 **SECTION 5.(b)** This act shall apply only to State buildings managed by the
46 Department of Administration pursuant to Article 36 of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes and
47 State institutions of higher learning.

48 **SECTION 6.** Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes
49 law. Section 3 of this act applies to every major facility construction project and every major
50 facility renovation project of a public agency, as those terms are defined in G.S. 143-135.36, that
51 have not entered the schematic design phase prior to the effective date of this act.