

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2021

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HOUSE BILL 245

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

Sponsors: Representatives Szoka, Arp, Saine, and Zenger (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, Finance, if favorable, Rules, Calendar,  
and Operations of the House

March 10, 2021

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 2027.

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 2027 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~~



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

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

10 ...."

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

13 **"§ 143-64.12A. Responsible lights out.**

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

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

22 **"§ 143-64.17. Definitions.**

23 As used in this Part:

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

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

20 ...."

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

22 **"§ 143-135.37. Energy and water use standards for public major facility construction and**  
23 **renovation projects; verification and reporting of energy and water use.**

24 ...

25 (b) Energy-Efficiency Standard. – For every major facility construction project of a  
26 public agency, the building shall be designed and constructed so that the calculated energy  
27 consumption is at least ~~thirty percent (30%)~~ forty percent (40%) less than the energy consumption  
28 for the same building as calculated using the energy-efficiency standard in ASHRAE 90.1-2004.  
29 For every major facility renovation project of a public agency, the renovated building shall be  
30 designed and constructed so that the calculated energy consumption is at least ~~twenty percent~~  
31 ~~(20%)~~ thirty percent (30%) less than the energy consumption for the same renovated building as  
32 calculated using the energy-efficiency standard in ASHRAE 90.1-2004. For the purposes of this  
33 subsection, any exception or special standard for a specific type of building found in ASHRAE  
34 90.1-2004 is included in the ASHRAE 90.1-2004 standard.

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

41 ...."

42 **SECTION 4.(a)** Each State agency and State institution of higher learning shall, no  
43 later than October 1, 2022, conduct a preliminary practicality and economic feasibility analysis  
44 of implementing energy conservation measures for all buildings greater than 20,000 square feet  
45 in size and that have been in use for more than 10 years. Energy conservation measures are  
46 deemed to be economically feasible if the resulting energy savings will cover the cost of  
47 implementing the measures within 10 years. Each State agency and State institution of higher  
48 learning shall submit its findings to the State Energy Office. If the agency or institution of higher  
49 learning determines that it is not practical or economically feasible to implement energy  
50 conservation measures, the agency or institution of higher learning shall include findings of fact  
51 supporting that determination in the findings it submits to the State Energy Office. If the State

1 agency or State institution of higher learning determines that it is practical and economically  
2 feasible to implement energy conservation measures, the agency or institution of higher learning  
3 shall do so. The energy conservation measures may be achieved by issuing a request for proposal  
4 for a guaranteed energy savings contract for all covered buildings owned by the agency or  
5 institution of higher learning. If the agency or institution of higher learning issues a request for  
6 proposal for a guaranteed energy savings contract for one or more buildings, the agency or  
7 institution of higher learning shall issue the request for proposal no later than April 1, 2023. The  
8 agency or institution of higher learning shall follow the process provided in Part 2 of Article 3B  
9 of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes. The definitions provided in G.S. 143-64.17 shall apply  
10 for purposes of this section.

11 **SECTION 4.(b)** No later than October 1, 2027, each State agency and State  
12 institution of higher learning shall repeat the process set forth in subsection (a) of this section for  
13 all buildings greater than 10,000 square feet in size and that have been in use for more than 10  
14 years. If the agency or institution of higher learning issues a request for proposal for a guaranteed  
15 energy savings contract for one or more buildings, the agency or institution of higher learning  
16 shall issue the request for proposal no later than April 1, 2028.

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

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

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

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

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