

I saw the Lighting bill on the agenda today and wanted to again share the AOE testimony from last year, about lighting. H.280... the would bill amend the State Board of Education Manual of Rules and Practices on lighting requirements for artificial illumination installed as part of a school construction project and requires the State Board to conform this amendment to the published version of the rules.

Lighting/H.280 The current SBE rules on lighting only apply to projects where state school construction aid is available. State construction aid is currently on suspension. Adjusting the rules at this point seems like time/resource spent on an issue that isn't affecting schools at this time. The rules require only that general classrooms have the ability to achieve 50 foot candles at work surfaces in classrooms – not that the classroom operates at 50 foot candles. The AOE has always supported that classrooms have the ability to dim the lights with the use of dimmer switches, tiered lighting where one or more banks of lighting can be shut down at a given time for certain teaching applications and of course for efficiency we recommend the use of occupancy sensors. Students have no ability to change the lighting if it is constructed too low. Students needing brighter light can't bring a task light to their desk to increase the light to satisfy their vision needs.

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