LOCAL LAWS
OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
FOR THE YEAR 2026

No. 151

Introduced by Council Members Wong, Louis, Epstein, Brewer and Banks.

A LOCAL LAW

To amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to the maximum allowable illuminance of residential outdoor lighting fixtures

Be it enacted by the Council as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 5 of title 28 of the administrative code of the city of New York is amended by adding a new article 508 to read as follows:

ARTICLE 508
OUTDOOR LIGHTING

§ 28-508.1 Definitions. *For purposes of this article, the following terms have the following meanings:*

FENESTRATION. *A vertical window (fixed or moveable) that is located in a room that can be legally occupied.*

FOOTCANDLE. *A unit of illuminance equal to 1 lumen per square foot.*

LUX. *A unit of illuminance equal to 1 lumen per square meter.*

OUTDOOR LIGHTING FIXTURE. *A lamp post, flood light, or other device capable of illumination that is affixed to the exterior of a building or located outside of a building.*

§ 28-508.2 Maximum allowable illuminance of residential outdoor lighting fixtures. *Except as otherwise required by the zoning resolution of the city of New York or resolution of the landmarks preservation commission, no outdoor lighting fixture on the premises of a 1- or 2-family dwelling located in an R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4, or R-5 district with no commercial overlay shall be permitted to create more than 1 footcandle (11 lux) of illuminance. Such illuminance shall be measured at the exterior of any other 1- or 2-family dwelling located in an R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4, or R-5 district with no commercial overlay, from the fenestration located most directly in the path of illuminance of*

the outdoor lighting fixture that is the subject of a complaint received by the department relating to a violation of this section.

Exception: *The requirements of this section shall not apply to any outdoor lighting fixture that is:*

1. *Operated by a local, state, or federal agency;*

2. *Operated for the illumination of a parking lot or sidewalk shed;*

3. *Used to maintain a safe physical environment due to ongoing construction activity;*

4. *Part of a lawful illuminated sign; or*

5. *Part of a temporary ornamental display.*

§ 28-508.3 Civil penalties. *A violation of section 28-508.2 shall be classified as a lesser violation.*

§ 28-508.4 Reduction of civil penalties. *The penalty imposed for a violation of section 28-508.2 may be reduced to $0, provided that, within the timeframe set forth in department rule, each outdoor lighting fixture associated with such violation is:*

1. Equipped with weather-resistant and vandal-resistant shielding that prevents light trespass into any fenestration of the property from which the illuminance was measured; or

2. For an outdoor lighting fixture that is affixed to the exterior of the building, removed or relocated to a location where it cannot exceed the illuminance limit set forth in section 28-508.2.

§ 2. This local law takes effect 270 days after it becomes law.

THE CITY OF NEW YORK, OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK, s.s.:

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a local law of The City of New York, passed by the Council on September 10, 2026 and returned unsigned by the Mayor on October 13, 2026.

MICHAEL M. McSWEENEY, City Clerk, Clerk of the Council.

CERTIFICATION OF CORPORATION COUNSEL

I hereby certify that the form of the enclosed local law (Local Law No. 151 of 2026, Council Int. No. 804-A of 2026) to be filed with the Secretary of State contains the correct text of the local law passed by the New York City Council, presented to the Mayor, and neither approved nor disapproved within thirty days thereafter.

BRENDA COOKE, Acting Corporation Counsel.