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**Technology, Energy &  
Communications Committee**

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**HB 1524**

**Brief Description:** Requiring the use of certain light-emitting diode lights.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Chase, Morris and B. Sullivan.

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Requires that holiday lights sold in the state be light-emitting diode (LED) lights.

**Hearing Date:** 1/31/07

**Staff:** Kara Durbin (786-7133).

**Background:**

*Energy efficiency standards*

In early 2005, the Legislature adopted minimum energy efficiency standards for 12 electrical products, which were not covered by federal law at that time. In 2006, the Legislature amended its efficiency standards to remove those standards that had been preempted by federal law and to change the efficiency standards for certain incandescent reflector lamps to be consistent with California's efficiency standards for those products.

While state and federal law does regulate certain types of larger, incandescent bulbs, state and federal law does not regulate the efficiency of smaller, incandescent bulbs commonly used in holiday light strings.

*Holiday lights*

Between late November and early January, holiday light strings are often used to decorate holiday trees and the exteriors of residential and commercial buildings. There are several different types of holiday lights, such as miniature lights, C-6, and C-7 lights, which each have different sized bulbs and lamp wattages. A string of holiday lights can consist of incandescent lamps or light-emitting diode (LED) lamps.

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According to a recent U.S. Department of Energy report, the average miniature incandescent lamp consumes 0.4 watts, whereas the average miniature LED lamp consumes 0.04 watts. This equates to an energy efficiency savings of approximately 90 percent.

**Summary of Bill:**

Holiday lights are added to the list of products regulated under the state's energy efficiency law. A minimum efficiency standard is created for holiday lights sold or offered for sale in the state. Holiday lights must be light-emitting diode (LED) lights.

Incandescent holiday lights manufactured after January 1, 2008, may not be sold in the state, unless the lights are LED lights.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Requested on January 22, 2007.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.