

# Alaska State Legislature

## Legislative Affairs Agency

### Maintenance



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#### MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Sara Hannan, Chair  
Legislative Council

FROM: Serge Lesh, Facilities Manager *SL*

DATE: April 9, 2026

SUBJECT: House and Senate Chamber Lighting Upgrade

The Legislative Affairs Agency recommends a lighting upgrade in the House and Senate Chambers. The current system was last updated in 2005 and is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain.

The existing lighting relies on incandescent and fluorescent components that are no longer standard. Ballasts used in the pendant lights are no longer manufactured and are extremely difficult to find, which has already resulted in loss of dimming capability in portions of the Chambers. In addition, the recessed lighting generates significant heat—raising temperatures in the Chambers by an estimated 6–8 degrees—which impacts comfort and increases strain on the building systems.

As the industry continues moving away from fluorescent lighting, replacement bulbs and parts are becoming more limited and inconsistent. The heat produced by the current system also contributes to ongoing wear on wiring and components, increasing maintenance needs.

The proposed upgrade to LED lighting would address these issues. LED fixtures eliminate the need for ballasts, produce minimal heat, and have a significantly longer lifespan. This reduces maintenance, improves reliability, and lowers safety risks associated with heat buildup, while also providing meaningful long-term cost savings through reduced energy use and fewer replacement components. LED systems also allow for better lighting control, including adjustable light levels and zoning, and bulbs can be replaced quickly without disruption to floor proceedings.

Given the age of the system and the increasing difficulty in maintaining it, this upgrade is a necessary step to ensure the Chambers remain functional and reliable.

I am happy to answer any questions.