SENATE BILL 116

M5, M3, C8

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(PRE–FILED)

CF HB 270

By: **Senator Lewis Young**
Requested: September 9, 2024
Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2025
Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 Data Center Impact Analysis and Report

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of the Environment, the Maryland Energy
4   Administration, and the University of Maryland School of Business, in coordination
5   with the Department of Legislative Services, to conduct an analysis of the likely
6   environmental, energy, and economic impacts of data center development in the
7   State; and generally relating to data centers.

8   SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
9 That:

10   (a)   The Department of the Environment, the Maryland Energy Administration,
11 and the University of Maryland School of Business, in coordination with the Department
12 of Legislative Services, shall conduct an analysis of the likely environmental, energy, and
13 economic impacts of data center development in the State.

14   (b)   The analysis shall include:

15   (1)   an assessment by the Department of the Environment of the potential
16 impacts of the data center industry on the natural resources of the State, including an
17 evaluation of:

18   (i)   the potential impacts on air and water quality;

19   (ii)   the potential impacts on the State's ability to meet its bay
20 restoration goals and other environmental objectives; and

21   (iii)   the availability of technologies that could mitigate the
22 environmental impacts of data centers, and the feasibility of implementing these
23 technologies in the State;

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1   (2)   an assessment by the Maryland Energy Administration of the potential
2   energy impacts of the data center industry, including an evaluation of:

3   (i)   the energy requirements of data centers;

4   (ii)   the potential impacts of the data center industry on current and
5   forecasted energy demand and supply in the State, including how data centers will likely
6   affect future energy infrastructure needs and costs paid by ratepayers; and

7   (iii)   the potential impacts of the data center industry on the State's
8   ability to meet greenhouse gas emissions reduction commitments and clean energy goals;
9   and

10   (3)   an assessment by the University of Maryland School of Business of the
11   potential economic and fiscal impacts of the data center industry in the State, including an
12   evaluation of:

13   (i)   the likely impact of data centers on State and local revenues and
14   expenditures; and

15   (ii)   the jobs likely to be created through the construction and
16   operation of data centers.

17   (c)   (1)   The Department of Legislative Services shall coordinate the
18   preparation of the analysis and synthesize the assessments by the Department of the
19   Environment, the Maryland Energy Administration, and the University of Maryland
20   School of Business into a final report.

21   (2)   At the request of the Department of Legislative Services, other relevant
22   units of State government, including the Department of Natural Resources, the
23   Department of Assessments and Taxation, the Department of Commerce, and the Public
24   Service Commission, shall provide any information necessary to complete the analysis.

25   (3)   On or before September 1, 2026, the Department of Legislative Services
26   shall submit the final report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State
27   Government Article, the General Assembly.

28   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
29   1, 2025. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2027,
30   this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and
31   of no further force and effect.