



# Montgomery County

## Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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**SB 116**

**DATE: March 25, 2025**

**SPONSOR: Senator Lewis Young**

**ASSIGNED TO: Economic Matters Committee**

**CONTACT PERSON: Garrett Fitzgerald (garrett.fitzgerald@montgomerycountymd.gov)**

**POSITION: Support with Amendment (Department of Environmental Protection)**

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### **Data Center Impact Analysis and Report**

As originally introduced, this legislation would direct the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA), and the University of Maryland School of Business (UMD), in coordination with the Department of Legislative Services, to conduct an analysis of the likely environmental, energy, and economic impacts of data center development in Maryland. The House passed a similar bill, HB 270, which retained all of these core objectives.

As amended by the Senate, this bill would no longer require MEA to analyze the energy requirements of data centers and their potential impacts on Maryland's energy supply, transmission infrastructure, ratepayer costs, and ability to achieve greenhouse gas emissions and clean energy goals.

The data center industry is expanding rapidly in our region. This study will empower State and local policymakers with information they need to address important challenges as they position Maryland as a leading state in data center development. Data centers have the potential to significantly affect future energy supply and transmission issues as well as customer electricity bills. The energy analysis component may be the most important part of this bill. We request that language be restored to match the language approved by the House.

We respectfully request that the Economic Matters Committee give this bill a favorable report with the inclusion of the suggested amendment.