

# HOUSE BILL 270

M5, M3, C8

(PRE-FILED)

5lr1430  
CF SB 116

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By: **Delegate Crosby**

Requested: October 28, 2024

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2025

Assigned to: Economic Matters

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 12, 2025

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

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;

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**EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.**

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



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

3 (iii) the availability of technologies that could mitigate the  
4 environmental impacts of data centers, and the feasibility of implementing these  
5 technologies in the State;

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

8 (i) the energy requirements of data centers;

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

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

15 (3) an assessment by the University of Maryland School of Business, in  
16 consultation with industry experts, of the potential economic and fiscal impacts of the data  
17 center industry in the State, including an evaluation of:

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

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

22 (c) (1) The Department of Legislative Services shall coordinate the  
23 preparation of the analysis and synthesize the assessments by the Department of the  
24 Environment, the Maryland Energy Administration, and the University of Maryland  
25 School of Business into a final report.

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

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

33 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
34 1, 2025. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end of June 30, 2027,

1 this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and  
2 of no further force and effect.

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.