

# HOUSE BILL 1534

M3, L6, M4

6lr3427

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By: **Delegate Miller**

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2026

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Data Centers – Standards for Operation and Siting**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring an owner or operator of a data center to comply with certain  
4 standards under certain circumstances; requiring the Department of the  
5 Environment to establish by regulation certain sound and vibration controls and  
6 requirements for backup power generation for data centers; authorizing a local  
7 health department and the Department to issue an emergency stop work order under  
8 certain circumstances; prohibiting a local approving authority from authorizing the  
9 construction of a data center on certain agricultural land; requiring a certain  
10 applicant to submit a certain report to a local approving authority under certain  
11 circumstances; and generally relating to standards for the operation and siting of  
12 data centers.

13 BY adding to

14 Article – Environment

15 Section 19–101 and 19–102 to be under the new title “Title 19. Data Centers”

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

18 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

19 Article – Land Use

20 Section 1–401(a) and (c)

21 Annotated Code of Maryland

22 (2012 Volume and 2025 Supplement)

23 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

24 Article – Land Use

25 Section 1–401(b)(27) through (32)

26 Annotated Code of Maryland

27 (2012 Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 BY adding to  
2 Article – Land Use  
3 Section 1–401(b)(27); and 7–601 and 7–602 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 6.  
4 Data Center Siting”  
5 Annotated Code of Maryland  
6 (2012 Volume and 2025 Supplement)

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
8 Article – Tax – General  
9 Section 11–239(a)(1) and (2)  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
13 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

14 **Article – Environment**

15 **TITLE 19. DATA CENTERS.**

16 **19–101.**

17 (A) IN THIS TITLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS  
18 INDICATED.

19 (B) “DATA CENTER” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 11–239 OF THE TAX –  
20 GENERAL ARTICLE.

21 (C) “DBA” MEANS DECIBELS OF SOUND AS DETERMINED BY THE  
22 A–WEIGHTING NETWORK.

23 (D) “DBC” MEANS DECIBELS OF SOUND AS DETERMINED BY THE  
24 C–WEIGHTING NETWORK.

25 **19–102.**

26 (A) IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL  
27 REQUIREMENTS, AN OWNER OR OPERATOR OF A DATA CENTER SHALL:

28 (1) IF THE DATA CENTER IS LOCATED WITHIN A 2,500–FOOT RADIUS  
29 OF THE BOUNDARY OF A PRIMARY OR SECONDARY SCHOOL PROPERTY:

30 (I) ENSURE ELECTRICAL SUBSTATIONS AND OVERHEAD  
31 TRANSMISSION LINES THAT HAVE A VOLTAGE CARRYING CAPACITY IN EXCESS OF 69

1 KILOVOLTS MAINTAIN A MINIMUM 1,000-FOOT SETBACK FROM ANY PLAYGROUND  
2 OR ATHLETIC FIELD ON THE SCHOOL PROPERTY;

3 (II) BEFORE OPERATING THE DATA CENTER AND ON REQUEST  
4 FROM A SCHOOL, PROVIDE:

5 1. FOR THE INSTALLATION OF HEPA-ONLY FILTERS  
6 AND MERV 13+ FILTERS IN THE SCHOOL'S HEATING, VENTILATION, AND  
7 AIR-CONDITIONING SYSTEM; AND

8 2. FUNDING FOR ANNUAL COSTS RELATED TO  
9 MAINTAINING AND REPLACING THE FILTERS; AND

10 (III) INSTALL AND MAINTAIN A PUBLIC-FACING AIR QUALITY  
11 SENSOR NETWORK AT THE AIR INTAKES OF THE SCHOOL TO MONITOR PARTICULATE  
12 MATTER 2.5, NITROGEN DIOXIDE, AND CARBON MONOXIDE; AND

13 (2) ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS ESTABLISHED BY THE  
14 DEPARTMENT UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION.

15 (B) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH BY REGULATION SOUND  
16 AND VIBRATION CONTROLS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR BACKUP POWER GENERATION  
17 FOR DATA CENTERS.

18 (2) THE REGULATIONS ESTABLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT UNDER  
19 PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL:

20 (I) SET SOUND LEVEL LIMITS THAT PROHIBIT DBC FROM  
21 EXCEEDING DBA BY MORE THAN 10 DECIBELS OF SOUND; AND

22 (II) FOR SCHOOL AND RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY, SET SOUND  
23 LEVEL LIMITS THAT MAY NOT EXCEED:

24 1. 45 DBA; OR

25 2. 55 DBC;

26 (III) SET PEAK PARTICLE VELOCITY LIMITS THAT MAY NOT  
27 EXCEED 0.02 INCHES PER SECOND AT ANY SCHOOL FOUNDATION;

28 (IV) REQUIRE ALL MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT TO USE  
29 SPRING-ISOLATED FOUNDATIONS WITH 95% EFFICIENCY;





1 **Article – Tax – General**

2 11–239.

3 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

4 (2) “Data center” means a building or group of buildings used to house  
5 computer systems, computer storage equipment, and associated infrastructure that  
6 businesses or other organizations use to organize, process, store, and disseminate large  
7 amounts of data.

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
9 October 1, 2026.