



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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SB 116

DATE: February 13, 2025

SPONSOR: Senator Lewis Young

ASSIGNED TO: Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

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

POSITION: Favorable (Department of Environmental Protection)

Data Center Impact Analysis and Report

This legislation will 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.

MDE will analyze potential impacts on air and water quality, bay restoration, and other environmental objectives, as well as the availability and feasibility of mitigating technologies.

MEA will 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.

UMD will analyze the potential economic and fiscal impacts of data center development on State and local revenues and expenditures as well as job creation from data center construction and operation.

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.

We respectfully request that the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 116.