



House Bill 1411

Date: March 10, 2026

Committee: Environment & Transportation

Position: Unfavorable

Founded in 1968, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce (the Chamber) is the leading voice for business in Maryland. We are a statewide coalition of more than 7,000 members and federated partners, and we work to develop and promote strong public policy that ensures sustained economic growth for Maryland businesses, employees, and families.

House Bill 1411 (HB 1411) introduces a series of requirements that would create significant uncertainty for companies considering major investments in Maryland.

First, the bill mandates extensive pre-application disclosure reports containing detailed operational, environmental, and financial information that must be publicly posted. These requirements risk exposing proprietary business information, infrastructure planning strategies, and site selection considerations to competitors, placing data center operators in Maryland at a competitive disadvantage.

Second, the bill imposes a 60-day pre-application waiting period before operators may apply for permits or financial assistance. In an industry where speed-to-market is critical, this delay adds unnecessary friction to an already complex development process and could make Maryland less competitive compared to states with more streamlined permitting structures.

HB 1411 would also require each jurisdiction with more than 10,000 residents to develop its own large-scale data center plan. This approach risks creating a fragmented patchwork of local rules, zoning standards, and community benefit requirements that would make long-term planning and multi-site investment far more difficult.

Additionally, the bill ties eligibility for state financial assistance and existing tax exemptions to whether a local jurisdiction has adopted a compliant data center plan. Because this action is outside the control of project developers, it creates substantial financial uncertainty and could prevent otherwise compliant projects from accessing incentives.

Finally, data centers represent significant economic opportunities, including major capital investment, construction jobs, permanent technical positions, and local tax revenue. Given the strong competition among states to attract these projects, layering additional regulatory hurdles onto development risks pushing investment elsewhere.

For these reasons, the Maryland Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests an **unfavorable report on HB 1411**.