



### House Bill 0120

Moratorium on Construction of New Data Centers – Co- Location and Generation Contingency

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation Committee

Hearing on February 3, 2026

**Position: FAVORABLE**

*Maryland Legal Aid submits its testimony on HB0120 at the request of Delegate Fisher.*

Maryland Legal Aid (“MLA”) is a non-profit law firm that provides free legal services to the State’s low-income and vulnerable residents. Our 12 offices serve residents in each of Maryland’s 24 jurisdictions and handle a range of civil legal matters, including housing, family law, public benefits, bankruptcy and other debt collection matters, and workers’ rights.

**MLA urges a favorable report on HB0120. HB0120 protects Maryland ratepayers, especially those who are low-income and vulnerable, from the negative impacts of an already overburdened power grid.**

On December 16, 2025, the Maryland General Assembly overrode the Governor’s veto of the [Data Center Impact Analysis and Report](#). As a result, the Department of the Environment, the Maryland Energy Administration and the University of Maryland School of Business will conduct and generate a report on the impacts of data center development in Maryland. Among other requirements, this report must assess the energy requirements of data centers and the impact on utility costs paid by Maryland ratepayers. While Marylanders await the results of the report, it is important that new construction does not further burden the power grid.

HB0120 requires any new data centers to be co-located with current or to-be-built power generators. These power generators must offset the data centers’ power usage. Without co-location requirements, new data centers will only continue to strain Maryland’s already burdened power grid. That burden will be passed on to Marylanders in the form of increased rates.

Maryland’s utility rates are already at an all-time high. These rates are not sustainable for anyone, let alone MLA’s clients, who are already living paycheck to paycheck, making impossible decisions about whether to pay a utility bill, purchase groceries, or write a rent check. The impact of these decisions is real; MLA sees it play out every week in eviction court. HB0120 creates common sense, simple contingency requirements to address the inevitable costs associated with data center loads and increased energy consumption.

Maryland Legal Aid urges a **favorable report on HB0120**. If you have any questions, contact Meaghan McDermott, Advocacy Director for Community Lawyering and Development ([mmcdermott@mdlab.org](mailto:mmcdermott@mdlab.org)) or DiNesha Rucker, Staff Attorney ([drucker@mdlab.org](mailto:drucker@mdlab.org)).