

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 26-0158
(First Reader)**

Introduced by: President Cohen

Cosponsored by: Councilmembers Parker, Dorsey, Conway, Middleton, Porter, Jones, Glover,
Ramos, Gray, Bullock, Blanchard

Introduced and read first time: March 23, 2026

Assigned to: Land Use and Transportation Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Department of Finance, Planning
Commission, Department of Transportation, Board of Municipal and Zoning Appeals,
Department of Housing and Community Development, Commission on Sustainability

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 style="text-align:center">**Data Centers – Moratorium**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a data center as a prohibited use Citywide; defining certain
4 terms; making conforming changes; providing for a special effective date; and providing for
5 the termination of certain provisions of this Ordinance.

6 BY repealing and re-ordaining, with amendments,
7 Article 32 - Zoning
8 Sections 1-209, 1-308(a) and (b), and 1-312(o)
9 Baltimore City Code
10 (Edition 2000)

11 BY renumbering
12 Article 32 - Zoning
13 Section 1-304(y) and (z)
14 to be
15 Section 1-304(z) and (aa)
16 Baltimore City Code
17 (Edition 2000)

18 BY adding
19 Article 32 - Zoning
20 Section 1-304(y)
21 Baltimore City Code
22 (Edition 2000)

23 **SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE, That**
24 Section 1-304(y) and (z), respectively, of Article 32 - Zoning of the Baltimore City Code be
25 renumbered to be Section 1-304(z) and (aa), respectively.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

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Baltimore City Code

Article 32. Zoning

Title 1. General Provisions

Subtitle 3. Definitions

§ 1-304. “Chimney” to “Day-care center: Child”.

(Y) *DATA CENTER.*

“DATA CENTER” MEANS A FACILITY OR PORTION OF A FACILITY:

(1) THAT IS USED FOR REMOTE STORAGE, PROCESSING, AND DISTRIBUTION OF DATA;
AND

(2) THAT IS CAPABLE OF USING 10 MEGAWATTS OR MORE OF ELECTRICITY.

§ 1-308. “Industrial: General” to “Lot: Interior”.

(a) *Industrial: General.*

(1) *In general.*

“Industrial: General” means the processing, manufacturing, or compounding of materials, products, or energy, having impacts on the environment or significant impacts on the use and enjoyment of adjacent property in terms of noise, smoke, fumes, odors, glare, or health and safety hazards.

(2) *Inclusions.*

“Industrial: General” includes:

(i) the storage of large volumes of toxic or highly flammable matter or explosives; and

(ii) outdoor operations as part of the processing, manufacturing, or compounding process.

(3) *Exclusions.*

“Industrial: General” does not include or authorize any use prohibited by § [1-218] 1-209 {“Uses prohibited citywide”} of this Title.

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1 (b) *Industrial: Light.*

2 (1) *In general.*

3 “Industrial: Light” means the processing, manufacturing, assembly, or compounding
4 of materials or products, where:

5 (i) all processing, fabrication, assembly, treatment, and packaging of products are
6 contained entirely within a building;

7 (ii) noise, odor, smoke, heat, glare, and vibration resulting from the manufacturing
8 process are confined within the building or otherwise minimized; and

9 (iii) only minimal truck traffic is required for daily operations.

10 (2) *Inclusions.*

11 “Industrial: Light” includes incidental storage, sales, and distribution of products
12 manufactured or stored on site.

13 (3) *Exclusions.*

14 “Industrial: Light” does not include or authorize any use prohibited by § [1-218]
15 1-209 {“Uses prohibited citywide”} of this Title.

16 **§ 1-312. “Property line” to “Roof deck”.**

17 (o) *Research and development facility.*

18 (1) *In general.*

19 “Research and development facility” means an establishment where research and
20 development activities are conducted in various disciplines, including biotechnology,
21 pharmaceuticals, medical instrumentation or supplies, communication and
22 information technology, electronics and instrumentation, and computer hardware and
23 software.

24 (2) *Inclusions.*

25 “Research and development facility” includes, as an accessory use, the manufacture,
26 fabrication, processing, or sale of products developed on the same lot as the
27 establishment.

28 (3) *Exclusions.*

29 “Research and development facility” does not [include] INCLUDE:

30 (1) the manufacture, fabrication, processing, or sale of products as a primary
31 [use.] USE; OR

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1 (II) A DATA CENTER.

2 **SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That this Ordinance takes effect on the date it is
3 enacted. Section 2 of this Ordinance shall remain effective for year following the date of
4 enactment, at which time and with no further action required by the City Council, Section 2 of
5 this Ordinance shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.