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# CITY OF BALTIMORE

Brandon M. Scott – Mayor  
Zeke Cohen – Council President



## Office of Council Services

Nancy Mead – Director  
100 Holliday Street, Room 415  
Baltimore, MD 21202

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# LAND USE & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

The Honorable Ryan Dorsey  
CHAIR

## HEARING NOTES

*Bill #26-0158*  
*Title Data Center Moratorium*

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**Hearing Date:** 5/7/2026

**Hearing Start Time:** 09:05 XM

**Hearing End Time:** 11:06 XM

**Location:** Du Burns Council Chamber / Webex

**Total Estimated Attendance:** 65

	YEA	NAY	ABSENT	ABSTENTION
<b>Final Vote:</b>	5	0	2	0

### Committee Members in Attendance:

- **Chair** Ryan Dorsey
  - Paris Gray
  - Phylicia Porter
  - Mark Parker
  - **Vice Chair** Sharon Green Middleton (ABSENT)
  - Zac Blanchard
  - John Bullock
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### **MAJOR SPEAKERS**

*(This is NOT an attendance record.)*

- **Zeke Cohen – Council President**
  - **Isaiah Griffin – MOGER**
  - **Gabe – DOF**
  - **Luciano Diaz – DOT**
  - **Justin Williams - BMZA**
  - **Tom W – BDC**
  - **Jeff H – Dept of Law**
  - **Jason Wright – DHCD**
  - **Jason Hessler – DHCD**
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### **NOTES**

- Chair Dorsey opened the hearing by reading the bill into the record and introducing the members
- Council President Cohen made opening remarks
  - Reviewed amendments proposed (Cohen V in packet)
- The floor was open to Agency Reports
  - Law
    - This may be better as an exclusion

- CP – the goal is to close loopholes and create a solution
- Finance
  - Data Centers subject to taxes – but not opposed
- Planning
  - Request amendments – amendment 3 to accept proposals not accepted by CP or Committee
- DOT
- BMZA
  - City rate payers already pay for data centers in the state – banning them just keeps us from getting their taxes.
    - CP- If we build them here in the City, we will need to build additional transmission lines, which the ratepayers would need to pay for.
    - Centers do report the power specs, so there should be no ambiguity, and the 10 megawatts is appropriate
- DHCD
- Sustainability
- BDC
  - Suggested an increase in the MW threshold, but this was not picked up by CP or Committee
    - CP – wants to avoid a situation where people are applying before we have the opportunity to set the standards.
- OECR – not referred but reporting
  - Impacts on energy, water, and air quality
- Committee Questions
  - Blanchard
    - Is 9 months enough time
      - Wants to spend as much time as possible to with the study and community engagement – so leaving 3 months is sufficient to craft the legislation
    - The 10-megawatt standard
  - Personal Property Taxes – seems low for the data centers that DOF cites in their study
    - Data center cited pays tax by floor – even though their capacity is 80 megawatts – different users in the center pay the tax -some may not be using the megawatt threshold.
    - \*Asking that DOF coordinate with SDAT on a review of the personal property assessments for property cited in their report\*
  - \*Dorsey – Air quality from generators 300 west Lexington uses a generator, asking DHCD to investigate reports of noise issues and use of generators\*
  - Blanchard - \* to BDC – what are data centers looking for – why downtown for data centers\*
  - Porter – why focused on telecommunications (amendment 1 vote)
    - These are the primary drivers of Data Centers – trying not to push out some drivers, but it would include the JHU center at 10

- Porter – how do we quantify primary use – (amendment 2 vote)
  - Based on usages in the zoning code
- Parker – amendment 4 vote – we should leave this out and keep the moratorium until study and legislation are in place.
- Floor open to public testimony -
- Voting
  - Amendment 1 - moved by – Dorsey – 4 yes- 1 nay Porter
  - Amendment 2 – moved by – Dorsey – 4 yes 1 nay Porter
  - Amendment 3 – moved by – Dorsey – all yes
  - Amendment 4 - moved by – Dorsey – 3 yes 2 nay Parker Porter
  - Amendment 5 – moved by – Dorsey – 5 yes
  - Bill as amended – Dorsey – 5 yea

***FURTHER STUDY REQUESTED***

*COPY IN SPREADSHEET*

***SEE FINAL VOTE RECORD IN BILL FILE***

<b>Hearing Packet in bill file? -----</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>YES</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>NO</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Attendance Sheet in bill file?-----</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>YES</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>NO</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Vote Record in bill file? -----</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>YES</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>NO</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Agency reports read? -----</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>YES</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>NO</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Hearing televised or audio-digitally recorded? -----</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>YES</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>NO</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Certification of advertising/posting notices in the bill file?-----</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>YES</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>NO</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Evidence of notification to property owners in bill file? -----</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>YES</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>NO</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>N/A</b>

Notes by: Tony Leva  
Notes Date: 5/7/2026

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