

**CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 26-0050R
(Resolution)**

Introduced by: Councilmembers Blanchard and Porter

Cosponsored by: Councilmembers Parker, Conway, Middleton, Gray, Bullock, Jones, Glover, Ramos, and President Cohen

Introduced and read first time: March 23, 2026

Assigned to: Public Health and Environment Committee

REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Department of Planning, Department of Finance, Health Department, Department of Public Works

A RESOLUTION ENTITLED

1 A COUNCIL RESOLUTION concerning

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3 **Informational Hearing – Data Centers – Community Impact and Use Standards**

4 FOR the purpose of inviting the Office of the People’s Council and the Public Service
5 Commission and requiring the Department of Planning, Law Department, Department of
6 Finance, Health Department, and the Department of Public Works to appear before the City
7 Council to discuss: (1) the impact a data center may have on Baltimore City’s infrastructure,
8 environment, and its community as a whole; (2) best practices for data center zoning, use
9 standards, and other development standards; and (3) which techniques and technologies are
10 available to limit the public health and environmental impact of these increasingly common
11 facilities.

12 **Recitals**

13 Data centers are large facilities that contain computer systems to store and process large
14 amounts of information, and are becoming an increasingly important part of modern digital
15 infrastructure. Data centers have proliferated throughout the region in service of growing data
16 processing demands from internet and artificial intelligence usage.

17 Data centers bring investment in certain industries, contribute property taxes to the
18 jurisdictions they are located in, and may bring investments in regional infrastructure, including
19 power grid and other utility upgrades.

20 However, data centers can also be a major burden on surrounding communities, especially if
21 not carefully managed, as they often take up a large area of land and consume fresh water for
22 cooling and are electricity-intensive, which raises power bills for local residents and can increase
23 air pollution as power plants increase output to meet demand. Since data centers are constantly
24 running, they can create a noise pollution hazard if not adequately insulated and controlled.

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

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1 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE**, That the City
2 Council invites the Office of the People’s Council and the Public Service Commission and
3 requires the Department of Planning, Law Department, Department of Finance, Health
4 Department, and the Department of Public Works to appear before the City Council to discuss:
5 (1) the impact a data center may have on Baltimore City’s infrastructure, environment, and its
6 community as a whole; (2) best practices for data center zoning, use standards, and other
7 development standards; and (3) which techniques and technologies are available to limit the
8 public health and environmental impact of these increasingly common facilities.

9 **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the People’s
10 Counsel, the Chair and members of the Public Service Commission, the Director of Planning, the
11 City Solicitor, the Director of Finance, the Director of Public Works, the Health Commissioner
12 and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.