

**As Referred by the House Rules and Reference Committee**

**136th General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2025-2026**

**H. B. No. 646**

**Representatives Click, Deeter**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Pizzulli, Thomas, D., Salvo, Daniels, Workman, Mathews, T., Richardson, Stephens, Newman, Barhorst, Williams, Brennan, King, Plummer, Ghanbari, Hall, T., Lorenz, Gross, Bird, Manning, Stewart**

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To create the Data Center Study Commission, and to	1
declare an emergency.	2

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

<b>Section 1.</b> (A) As used in this section:	3
(1) "Commission" means the Data Center Study Commission.	4
(2) "Data center" means a physical facility equipped with,	5
or connected to, one or more computers that is used for	6
processing or transmitting data.	7
(B) (1) There is created, within the Department of	8
Development, the Data Center Study Commission, which shall	9
consist of the following members:	10
(a) Three members appointed by the Governor;	11
(b) Three members appointed by the Speaker of the House of	12
Representatives;	13
(c) Three members appointed by the President of the	14
Senate;	15
(d) Two members appointed by the Minority Leader of the	16

House of Representatives; 17

(e) Two members appointed by the Minority Leader of the 18  
Senate. 19

(2) The members of the Commission shall be appointed not 20  
more than thirty days after the effective date of this section. 21

(3) Members shall serve until any of the following occur, 22  
as applicable: 23

(a) The member resigns or is no longer able to fulfill the 24  
duties of the Commission; 25

(b) The member is removed from the Commission by the 26  
officer that appointed that member; 27

(c) The Commission is dissolved under this section. 28

(4) Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as for 29  
original appointments. 30

(5) Members of the Commission shall receive compensation 31  
at the rate of two hundred fifty dollars per Commission meeting. 32

(C) (1) The first meeting of the Commission shall occur not 33  
more than forty-five days after the effective date of this 34  
section, at a date and time set by the Governor. At the first 35  
meeting, the members of the Commission shall elect a 36  
chairperson, vice chairperson, and secretary. The first meeting 37  
shall be for organizational purposes only. 38

(2) The Commission shall hold not less than four public 39  
meetings as follows: 40

(a) Not less than two public meetings shall be held for 41  
hearing public testimony regarding the topics described in 42  
division (D) of this section. 43

(b) Not less than two public meetings shall be held for 44  
hearing invited testimony from experts regarding the topics 45  
described in division (D) of this section. 46

(D) The Commission shall examine all of the following 47  
concerning data centers: 48

(1) Environmental impact; 49

(2) Effect on the electrical grid, including on behind the 50  
meter electric supply and on consumer utility rates; 51

(3) Water usage and impact on the local water supply; 52

(4) Noise pollution; 53

(5) Light pollution; 54

(6) Impact on the local economy; 55

(7) Impact on farmland; 56

(8) Value to national security and the development of 57  
artificial intelligence; 58

(9) Reports of foreign propaganda intended to create 59  
opposition to data centers; 60

(10) Any other relevant topics determined by the 61  
Commission. 62

(E) The Commission shall submit a report of its findings 63  
and any legislative recommendations to the Governor and the 64  
General Assembly not more than six months after the effective 65  
date of this section. 66

(F) The Commission terminates after issuing the report 67  
required by this section. 68

**Section 2.** This act is hereby declared to be an emergency 69

measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public 70  
peace, health, and safety. The reason for such necessity is that 71  
data centers are proliferating rapidly in the absence of a 72  
specific regulatory structure, or historical precedent, which is 73  
generating serious concerns among the citizens of this state and 74  
creating an unstable environment for local decision making. 75  
Verifiable information is crucial to such citizens when facing 76  
new development within their communities and local political 77  
subdivisions tasked with approving such development, as well as 78  
investors who wish to site data centers throughout Ohio. 79  
Verifiable information benefits all concerned parties and is 80  
urgently needed due to the rapid development of this emerging 81  
technology and the lack of general knowledge concerning data 82  
centers in Ohio. Therefore, this act shall go into immediate 83  
effect. 84