

**As Re-Referred to the Senate Energy Committee**

**136th General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2025-2026**

**Am. Sub. 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, Holmes, Miller, M., Abdullahi, Claggett, Creech, Dovilla, Hoops, John, Klopfenstein, Lear, Mathews, A., Miller, J., Miller, K., Mohamed, Peterson, Ray, Robb Blasdel, Rogers, Schmidt, Synenberg, Troy, Upchurch, White, A., Willis, Young**

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To create the Data Center Study Commission.

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

**Section 1.** (A) As used in this section:

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(1) "Commission" means the Data Center Study Commission.

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(2) "Data center" means a physical facility equipped with,  
or connected to, one or more computers that is used for  
processing or transmitting data.

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(B) (1) There is created, within the Department of  
Development, the Data Center Study Commission, which shall  
consist of the following members:

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(a) Three members appointed by the Governor consisting of  
the following:

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(i) One member with knowledge of data center operations;

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(ii) One member with knowledge of agriculture;

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(iii) One member with knowledge of county government.

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| (b) Five members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives consisting of the following:  | 15<br>16                   |
| (i) One member with knowledge of rural electric cooperatives;   | 17<br>18                   |
| (ii) One member with knowledge of water and environmental impacts of data centers;  | 19<br>20                   |
| (iii) One member with knowledge of townships;   | 21                         |
| (iv) One member who is a member of the majority party of the House of Representatives;  | 22<br>23                   |
| (v) One member who is a member of the minority party of the House of Representatives. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall consult with the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives regarding the appointment of a member of the minority party of the House of Representatives. | 24<br>25<br>26<br>27<br>28 |
| (c) Five members appointed by the President of the Senate consisting of the following:  | 29<br>30                   |
| (i) One member with knowledge of municipalities;  | 31                         |
| (ii) One member with knowledge of public utilities;   | 32                         |
| (iii) One member with knowledge of economic development and tax incentives;   | 33<br>34                   |
| (iv) One member who is a member of the majority party of the Senate;  | 35<br>36                   |
| (v) One member who is a member of the minority party of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall consult with the Minority Leader of the Senate regarding the appointment of a member of the minority party of the Senate.   | 37<br>38<br>39<br>40       |
| (2) (a) The member who is a member of the majority party of   | 41                         |

the House of Representatives shall serve as a Co-chairperson of 42  
the Commission. 43

(b) The member who is a member of the majority party of 44  
the Senate shall serve as a Co-chairperson of the Commission. 45

(3) Members shall serve until any of the following occur, 46  
as applicable: 47

(a) The member resigns or is no longer able to fulfill the 48  
duties of the Commission; 49

(b) The member is removed from the Commission by the 50  
officer that appointed that member; 51

(c) The Commission is dissolved under this section. 52

(4) Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as for 53  
original appointments. 54

(5) Members of the Commission shall serve without 55  
compensation. 56

(C) (1) The first meeting of the Commission shall occur not 57  
more than forty-five days after the effective date of this 58  
section, at a date and time set by the Co-chairpersons. 59

(2) The Commission shall hold not less than four public 60  
meetings as follows: 61

(a) Not less than two public meetings shall be held for 62  
hearing public testimony regarding the topics described in 63  
division (D) of this section. 64

(b) Not less than two public meetings shall be held for 65  
hearing invited testimony from experts regarding the topics 66  
described in division (D) of this section. 67

(D) The Commission shall examine all of the following 68

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| concerning data centers:  | 69                                     |
| (1) Environmental impact;   | 70                                     |
| (2) Effect on the electrical grid, including on behind the<br>meter electric supply and on consumer utility rates;  | 71<br>72                               |
| (3) Water usage, wastewater discharge, and impact on the<br>local water supply;   | 73<br>74                               |
| (4) Noise pollution;  | 75                                     |
| (5) Light pollution;  | 76                                     |
| (6) Impact on the local economy;  | 77                                     |
| (7) Impact on farmland;   | 78                                     |
| (8) Value to national security and the development of<br>artificial intelligence;   | 79<br>80                               |
| (9) Reports of foreign propaganda intended to create<br>opposition to data centers;   | 81<br>82                               |
| (10) Any other relevant topics determined by the<br>Commission.   | 83<br>84                               |
| (E) The Commission shall submit a report of its findings<br>and any legislative recommendations to the Governor and the<br>General Assembly in accordance with division (B) of section<br>101.68 of the Revised Code not more than six months after the<br>effective date of this section. The report shall include<br>nonbinding best practices and considerations as a guide for<br>local decision-making bodies. | 85<br>86<br>87<br>88<br>89<br>90<br>91 |
| (F) The Commission terminates after issuing the report<br>required by this section.   | 92<br>93                               |