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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

H.B. 646  
136<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

## Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 646's Bill Analysis](#)

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsors:** Reps. Click and Deeter

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** No

Francis Bediako, Economist

### Highlights

- The bill has no direct fiscal effect on local governments, as it does not impose new duties, mandates, or costs on local political subdivisions.

### Detailed Analysis

The bill creates the Data Center Study Commission within the Department of Development. The Commission is charged with examining a broad range of issues related to data centers, including environmental impacts, effects on the electrical grid and consumer utility rates, water usage and local water supply, noise and light pollution, impacts on the local economy and farmland, value to national security and artificial intelligence development, and reports of foreign propaganda intended to create opposition to data centers. The Commission may also consider any other relevant topics it determines appropriate.

The bill establishes that the Commission consists of 13 members, three appointed by the Governor, three by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, three by the President of the Senate, two by the Minority Leader of the House, and two by the Minority Leader of the Senate. Members must be appointed within 30 days after the effective date of the bill. Members serve until they resign, are removed by their appointing authority, or the Commission is dissolved after issuing its report. Vacancies are filled in the same manner as original appointments. Members receive compensation of \$250 per Commission meeting.

According to the bill, the Commission must hold its first meeting within 45 days after the effective date, at a date and time set by the Governor and is for organizational purposes only, including the election of a chairperson, vice chairperson, and secretary. The Commission must hold a minimum of four public meetings, at least two for public testimony and at least two for invited expert testimony on the topics specified in the bill. Within six months after the effective date, the Commission must submit a report of its findings and any legislative recommendations

to the Governor and the General Assembly. The Commission is dissolved upon submitting its report to the Governor and the General Assembly. The bill is declared an emergency measure and takes effect immediately upon enactment.

## **Fiscal effect**

The bill has no direct fiscal effect on local governments. It does not require counties, municipalities, townships, school districts, or other local political subdivisions to perform new duties, incur new costs, or change existing practices. While the Commission may consider the impact of data centers on local economies, infrastructure, and land use, and may receive testimony from local officials or residents, any such participation would be voluntary and not mandated by the bill. Accordingly, the bill does not trigger additional spending, revenue changes, or administrative obligations for local governments.