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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**

## Bill Analysis

[Click here for H.B. 646's Fiscal Note](#)

**Version:** As Passed by the House

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

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### SUMMARY

- Creates the Data Center Study Commission within the Department of Development, with members appointed by the Governor, Speaker of the House, and President of the Senate that meet certain criteria.
- Provides that the Commission members who are appointed as members of the majority party of the House and Senate must serve as co-chairpersons of the Commission.
- Specifies Commission members' duration of service, and how vacancies are filled.
- Provides that Commission members are uncompensated.
- Specifies the Commission must hold at least four public meetings.
- Requires the Commission to examine various topics regarding data centers.
- Requires the Commission to submit a report of its findings and any legislative recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly not more than six months after the bill's effective date.
- Terminates the Commission after issuing the above report.

### DETAILED ANALYSIS

#### Data Center Study Commission

##### Creation and membership

The bill creates the Data Center Study Commission within the Department of Development. The Commission consists of the following members:

- Three members appointed by the Governor consisting of the following:
  - One member with knowledge of data center operations;

- One member with knowledge of agriculture;
- One member with knowledge of county government.
- Five members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives as follows:
  - One member with knowledge of rural electric cooperatives;
  - One member with knowledge of water and environmental impacts of data centers;
  - One member with knowledge of townships;
  - One member who is a member of the majority party of the House of Representatives;
  - One member who is a member of the minority party of the House of Representatives, after consulting with the House Minority Leader regarding the appointment.
- Five members appointed by the President of the Senate as follows:
  - One member with knowledge of municipalities;
  - One member with knowledge of public utilities;
  - One member with knowledge of economic development and tax incentives;
  - One member who is a member of the majority party of the Senate;
  - One member who is a member of the minority party of the Senate, after consulting with the Senate Minority Leader regarding the appointment.

As used in the bill:

- “Commission” means the Data Center Study Commission;
- “Data center” means a physical facility equipped with, or connected to, one or more computers that is used for processing or transmitting data.<sup>1</sup>

### **Commission co-chairpersons**

Under the bill, the Commission members who are members of the majority party of the House and Senate must serve as co-chairpersons of the Commission.<sup>2</sup>

### **Duration of membership**

Members must serve until any of the following occur: (1) the member resigns or is no longer able to fulfill the Commission’s duties, (2) the member is removed from the Commission by the officer that appointed that member, or (3) the Commission is dissolved.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Section 1(A) and (B)(1).

<sup>2</sup> Section 1(B)(2).

<sup>3</sup> Section 1(B)(3).

## **Filling vacancies**

Vacancies in the Commission must be filled in the same manner as the original appointments.<sup>4</sup>

## **No compensation**

The bill provides that Commission members serve without compensation.<sup>5</sup>

## **Meetings**

The first Commission meeting must occur not more than 45 days after the bill's effective date, at a date and time set by the co-chairpersons.

The Commission is required to hold not less than four public meetings as follows:

- Not less than two public meetings for hearing public testimony regarding the examination topics described below;
- Not less than two public meetings for hearing invited testimony from experts regarding the same examination topics.<sup>6</sup>

## **Examination topics**

The Commission is required to examine all of the following concerning data centers:

- Environmental impact;
- Effect on the electrical grid, including on behind the meter electric supply and on consumer utility rates;
- Water usage, wastewater discharge, and impact on the local water supply;
- Noise pollution;
- Light pollution;
- Impact on the local economy;
- Impact on farmland;
- Value to national security and the development of artificial intelligence;
- Reports of foreign propaganda intended to create opposition to data centers;
- Any other relevant topics determined by the Commission.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Section 1(B)(4).

<sup>5</sup> Section 1(B)(5).

<sup>6</sup> Section 1(C).

<sup>7</sup> Section 1(D).

## Report

The Commission must submit a report of its findings and any legislative recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly, in accordance with continuing law that generally applies concerning a report, recommendation, or other similar document that must be submitted to the General Assembly, not more than six months after the bill's effective date. To satisfy the continuing law submission requirements law when both houses of the General Assembly or their members are specified, a copy of the document must be submitted to the Director of the Legislative Service Commission, President of the Senate, Speaker of the House, Minority Leader of the Senate, and Minority Leader of the House.

Additionally, the report must include nonbinding best practices and considerations as a guide for local decision-making bodies.<sup>8</sup>

## Commission termination

The Commission terminates after issuing the above report.<sup>9</sup>

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## HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	01-14-26
Reported, H. Technology and Innovation	03-04-26
Passed House (97-0)	03-18-26

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<sup>8</sup> Section 1(E); R.C. 101.68(B), not in the bill.

<sup>9</sup> Section 1(F).