




July 2, 2026

Policy Analysis and Fiscal Impact Statement

TO: Committee of the Whole (COW)

THRU: Rana Hightower *RH*
Committee Director, Planning, Housing and Economic Development Committee (PHED)

FROM: Credelphia Ganu
Senior Legislative Budget Analyst 

RE: **CR-066-2026** Temporary Moratorium on Hyperscale Data Center Operation

CR-066-2026 (*proposed by:* Council Member Krystal Oriadha)

Assigned to the Committee of the Whole (COW)

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON HYPERSCALE DATA CENTER OPERATION, for the purpose of establishing a two (2) year temporary moratorium on the operation of hyperscale qualified data centers; providing time for the County Council to consider comprehensive legislation governing the siting, construction, and operation of data centers; and generally relating to hyperscale qualified data centers.

Fiscal Summary

Direct Impact:

Expenditures: None.

Revenues: None.

Indirect Impact:

Potentially favorable.

Legislative Summary:

CR-066-2026 was introduced by Council Member Krystal Oriadha and referred to the Committee of the Whole (COW). The resolution establishes a temporary two-year moratorium on the operation of hyperscale qualified data centers in Prince George's County. The proposed moratorium is intended to provide additional time for the County to complete comprehensive legislation governing the siting, construction, and operation of qualified data centers while continuing to evaluate infrastructure capacity, environmental impacts, land use considerations, and community concerns.

The resolution builds upon prior County actions addressing qualified data center development, including Executive Order No. 42-2025, Executive Order No. 1-2026, CR-098-2025, and recommendations issued by the Qualified Data Center Task Force. The legislation would become effective immediately upon adoption.

Implementation Summary:

CR-066-2026 would be implemented through the County's existing regulatory and administrative processes. Upon adoption, County agencies responsible for permitting, planning, subdivision reviews, and development reviews would continue implementing the temporary moratorium while the County Council considers comprehensive legislation governing hyperscale data center development.

During the moratorium period, County agencies would continue coordinating interagency review efforts, evaluating policy recommendations, and supporting development of a long-term regulatory pause established through prior executive and legislative actions.

Current Law/Background:

Federal, State, and local governments continue to evaluate the impacts associated with hyperscale qualified data center development, including energy demand, water consumption, land use compatibility, infrastructure capacity, environmental impacts, and community benefits.

County Executive Aisha N. Braveboy issued Executive Order No. 42-2025, suspending the acceptance, consideration, and processing of permit applications for qualified data centers. County Executive Aisha N. Braveboy subsequently issued Executive Order No. 1-2026, extending the temporary suspension. The County Council later adopted CR-098-2025, establishing a temporary pause on the review and approval of preliminary plans of subdivision proposing qualified hyperscale data center uses while comprehensive legislation was considered.

The Qualified Data Task Force was established to evaluate the potential risks and benefits associated with qualified data center development and to recommend future legislative and regulatory policies. Following completion of the Task Force's Final Report, the County Council continues evaluating comprehensive legislation governing the siting, construction, and operation of hyperscale qualified data centers. CR-066-2026 extends these efforts by temporary moratorium while legislative review process continues.

Resource Personnel:

- Josh Hamlin, Legislative Attorney
 - Tre'von Sawyers, Chief of Staff, Council District 7
 - Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement (DPIE)
 - Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC)
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Discussion/Policy Analysis:

CR-066-2026 establishes a temporary two-year moratorium on the operation of hyperscale qualified hyperscale data centers within Prince George's County while the County Council considers comprehensive legislation governing future data center development.

The proposed legislation does not permanently prohibit data center development. Rather, it provides additional time for the County to evaluate recommendations issued by the Qualified Data Center Task Force, review infrastructure and environmental considerations, assess land use, compatibility, and develop a comprehensive regulatory framework addressing the siting, construction, and operation of hyperscale qualified data centers.

The legislation reflects the County's continued effort to balance economic development opportunities associated with data center investment with the need to protect public infrastructure, environmental resources, and surrounding communities. During the moratorium period, County agencies and Council may continue evaluating long-term policies governing qualified data center development before future applications are considered.

Fiscal Impact:

- *Direct Impact*

The adoption of CR-066-2026 is not anticipated to have a direct fiscal impact on Prince George's County. The resolution establishes a temporary regulatory moratorium and does not authorize new expenditures or appropriations.

- *Indirect Impact*

The legislation may have a favorable indirect fiscal impact by providing the County with additional time to develop a comprehensive regulatory framework governing hyperscale qualified data center development. While the temporary moratorium may delay certain development activity and associated revenues, it may also reduce future infrastructure, environmental, and land use costs by allowing the County to establish more comprehensive policies prior to approving new projects.

- *Appropriated in the Current Fiscal Year Budget*
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No.

Policy Implementation Resource/Project Timeline:

Milestone 1 – Upon Adoption

- a. The temporary moratorium on hyperscale qualified data center operations becomes effective immediately.
- b. County agencies continue implementing the temporary pause on applicable permitting and development review activities consistent with the resolution.

Milestone 2 – During the Moratorium Period

- a. County agencies continue reviewing recommendations issued by the Qualified Data Center Task Force.
- b. The County Council continues evaluating comprehensive legislation governing the siting, construction, and operation of hyperscale qualified data centers.
- c. Interagency coordination continues regarding land use, infrastructure capacity, environmental impacts, and community considerations.

Milestone 3 – Prior to Expiration of the Moratorium

- a. The County Council determines whether comprehensive legislation has been enacted.
- b. The Council evaluates whether the temporary moratorium should expire, be modified, or be extended through future legislative action.

Milestone 4 – Ongoing

- a. County agencies implement comprehensive legislation enacted by the County Council.
- b. Agencies continue administering permitting and development review activities in accordance with applicable County law.

Resources and Critical Path – Implementation is expected to occur through existing County agency resources and established development reviews procedures. Continued coordination among the County Council, Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement (DPIE), Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC), and other affected agencies will support implementation of the temporary moratorium while comprehensive legislation is considered.

**Disclaimer – This is a relative timeline based on the report out from DPIE and OMB input at a point in time.*

Effective Date of Proposed Legislation:

CR-66-2026 shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

If you require additional information or have questions about this fiscal impact statement, please reach out to me via phone or email.