COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

2025 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-098-2025

Proposed by Council Members Blegay, Oriadha, Adams-Stafford, Watson, and Dernoga

Introduced by Council Members Blegay, Oriadha, Adams-Stafford, Watson, Dernoga, and Hawkins

Co-Sponsors

Date of Introduction September 16, 2025

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION concerning

Support for the Qualified Data Center Task Force Recommendations

For the purpose of adopting a temporary pause on processing, review and approval of preliminary plans of subdivision which include qualified data centers among its proposed uses for a period of six months to allow the County sufficient time to consider and enact reasonable, thoughtful zoning and building requirements pertaining to data center developments to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

WHEREAS, Prince George's County has identified the data center industry as viable path to economic development within the County and taken steps to attract data center development by relaxing certain zoning requirements (CB-001-2021) and providing for personal property tax exemptions (CB-055-2020); and

WHEREAS, CB-15-2024 (Amendment 5), which allowed a qualified data center use in the Agricultural Zone (AG Zone), was stricken by the Circuit Court for Prince George's County because Section 27-3501(d) of the Zoning Ordinance prohibits a legislative amendment to create different standards for a subset of properties within a zone.

WHEREAS, during the 2024 legislative session, the Prince George's County Council received community feedback expressing concerns about the environmental, energy and land impacts of data centers and a desire for a comprehensive plan to govern development of this industry within the County; and

WHEREAS, by way of CR-016-2025 the County Council established the Qualified Data Center Task Force with representation across stakeholder groups including civic and

environmental groups, the building industry, the labor community, electric service providers, County government, and the data center community; and

WHEREAS, the Qualified Data Center Task Force was established to study the community benefits and potential risks of data center developments in Prince George's County as well as recommend potential location and siting policies for data center uses; and

WHEREAS, the Qualified Data Center Task Force, which began meeting on May 14, 2025, requires time to adequately study these issues and obtain public input before recommending effective and enduring policy and/or legislative amendments; and

WHEREAS, the Qualified Data Center Task Force will submit research, policy and regulatory recommendations to the County Council no later than November 30, 2025; and

WHEREAS, subsequent to the release of this report, the County Council requires time to meaningfully consider these recommendations and craft appropriate, comprehensive legislation on these issues;

WHEREAS, the County Council finds that a temporary pause on data center development approvals and activity is appropriate to prevent future problems with the placement, construction and operation of data center uses pending completion of this necessary study and consideration of amendments to the current County law designed to protect the health, safety and welfare of the County's residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the County Council finds that this temporary pause is necessary to prevent additional development that may frustrate the goals of the Qualified Data Center Task Force or adversely affect the orderly land development of the County; and

WHEREAS, Title 23 of the Land Use Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland authorizes the governing body of Prince George's County to adopt regulations and amendments governing a subdivision in the respective portion of the regional district in the County

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's County, Maryland, that a temporary pause is established on the processing, review, and approval of applications for preliminary plans of subdivision which proposes a qualified data center use until the earlier of one-hundred eighty (180) days from the adoption of this resolution or the effective date of the comprehensive legislation enacted by the County Council to address the placement, construction and operation of data center uses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the temporary pause established herein shall apply

irrespective of whether the applicable application is submitted for review under the current Zoning Ordinance and/or Subdivision Regulations or the provisions of the prior Zoning Ordinance and/or Subdivision Regulations in effect prior to April 1, 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this temporary pause is established to allow a reasonable time within which the County Council can review the recommendations of Qualified Data Center Task Force as well as consider and enact legislation based on those recommendations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this temporary pause supports the September 2025 Executive Order of County Executive Aisha N. Braveboy which pauses permitting associated with data center construction in Prince George's County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Council, in collaboration with the Prince George's County Planning Board, will work to enact comprehensive legislation and implementing regulations within one-hundred eighty (180) days of the adoption of this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that during this temporary pause, the Director of the Prince George's County Planning Department shall not accept, process, or review any preliminary plan of subdivision which proposes a qualified data center among its planned uses of the property.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this temporary pause shall take effect immediately upon adoption of this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Council reserves the right to extend or modify this temporary pause for such additional period(s) and upon such terms and conditions as it deems necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the provisions of this Resolution are severable; and, in the event that any section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Resolution is declared invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the remaining words, phrases, clauses, sentences, subparagraphs, paragraphs, subsections, or sections of this Resolution, since the same would have been adopted without the incorporation in this Resolution of any such invalid or unconstitutional word, phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, subparagraph, subsection, or section.

Adopted this 16th day of September, 2025.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Edward P. Burroughs III
Chair

ATTEST:

_____
Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council

APPROVED:

DATE: 10.7.2025 BY: _____
Aisha N. Braveboy
County Executive