

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6984

To require reports on the effects of data centers on air quality and water quality, and on electricity consumption by data centers.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 8, 2026

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. CASAR) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To require reports on the effects of data centers on air quality and water quality, and on electricity consumption by data centers.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Data Center Trans-
5 parency Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. REPORTS ON THE EFFECTS OF DATA CENTERS ON**
2 **AIR QUALITY AND WATER QUALITY; REPORTS**
3 **ON ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION BY DATA**
4 **CENTERS.**

5 (a) REPORTS ON THE EFFECTS OF DATA CENTERS
6 ON AIR QUALITY AND WATER QUALITY.—Not later than
7 6 months after the date of enactment of this section, and
8 not less frequently than once every 3 months thereafter,
9 the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agen-
10 cy shall submit to Congress, and make publicly available
11 on a website, a report that identifies, with respect to the
12 period of 3 months preceding the submission and publica-
13 tion of the report—

14 (1) the total amount of water consumed by data
15 centers located in the United States;

16 (2) how such data centers reuse water, and the
17 amount of such reused water;

18 (3) how such data centers affect local water
19 systems, including with respect to—

20 (A) the availability of potable water;

21 (B) whether the data center increased de-
22 mand on local water utilities;

23 (C) any potential data on service disrup-
24 tions for other customers of local water utilities;

25 (D) any changes in residential rates for
26 water services; and

1 (E) the type and amount of pollutants (as
2 such term is defined in section 502(6) of the
3 Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C.
4 1362(6))) discharged into water by data cen-
5 ters;

6 (4) the total amount of greenhouse gases emit-
7 ted from such data centers; and

8 (5) the effect of such greenhouse gas emissions,
9 including the cumulative effect on overburdened
10 communities.

11 (b) REPORTS ON ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION BY
12 DATA CENTERS.—

13 (1) COLLECTION OF DATA.—The Administrator
14 of the Energy Information Administration shall col-
15 lect data on the total amount of energy consumed
16 every 6 months by each data center located in the
17 United States.

18 (2) REPORTS.—Not later than 6 months after
19 the date of enactment of this section, and not less
20 frequently than once every 6 months thereafter, the
21 Administrator of the Energy Information Adminis-
22 tration shall submit to Congress, and make publicly
23 available on a website, a report that identifies, with
24 respect to the period of 6 months preceding the sub-
25 mission and publication of the report—

1 (A) the total amount of energy consump-
2 tion by data centers, disaggregated by State;

3 (B) how such energy consumption may
4 have changed during such period of 6 months;

5 (C) the number of data centers that began
6 operating during such period of 6 months;

7 (D) how household energy bills may have
8 changed during such period of 6 months; and

9 (E) the average household energy use and
10 cost.

11 (c) DATA CENTER DEFINED.—In this section, the
12 term “data center” has the meaning given such term in
13 section 453(a) of the Energy Independence and Security
14 Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17112(a)).

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