

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9777

To require that new and existing data centers use off-grid power and water supplies, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 20, 2026

Mr. DONALDS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To require that new and existing data centers use off-grid power and water supplies, and for other purposes.

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 “Protecting Ratepayers
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) COVERED ENTITY.—The term “covered en-
9 tity” means a private company, or other private en-
10 tity, that—

1 (A) owns, operates, or maintains a data
2 center; or

3 (B) has plans to own, operate, or maintain
4 a data center within the next 5 years.

5 (2) DATA CENTER.—The term “data center”
6 means a data center, as defined in section 453(a) of
7 the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007
8 (42 U.S.C. 17112(a)), with a power demand of 5
9 megawatts or more.

10 (3) EXISTING DATA CENTER.—The term “exist-
11 ing data center” means a data center that has
12 begun operations as of the date of enactment of this
13 Act.

14 (4) NEW DATA CENTER.—The term “new data
15 center” means a data center or planned data center
16 that is not yet operational as of the date of enact-
17 ment of this Act.

18 **SEC. 3. DATA CENTER REQUIREMENT FOR OFF-GRID**
19 **POWER AND WATER SUPPLY.**

20 Beginning on the date that is 180 days after the date
21 of enactment of this Act, a covered entity may not build,
22 own, operate, or maintain a new data center or existing
23 data center unless the data center derives all—

24 (1) energy, including back-up energy, from a
25 captive power plant, on-site power generation, or

1 some other source or combination of sources sepa-
2 rate from, and not deriving power from, the electric
3 grid; and

4 (2) water, including back-up water, from an on-
5 site water source, or some other water source or
6 combination of sources separate from, and not deriv-
7 ing water from, the public water system.

8 **SEC. 4. RATEPAYER PROTECTION PLEDGE.**

9 Proclamation of the President issued on March 9,
10 2026, titled “Ratepayer Protection Pledge” (91 Fed. Reg.
11 11439) shall have the full force and effect of law.

○