



**Committee:** ECON  
**Committee Review:** At a future date  
**Staff:** Ludeen McCartney-Green Legislative Attorney  
**Purpose:** To introduce agenda item – no vote expected

AGENDA ITEM #1A  
May 5, 2026  
**Introduction**

## **SUBJECT**

Expedited Bill 19-26, Buildings – Moratorium on Permits for Data Centers – Established

Lead Sponsor: Councilmember Glass

## **EXPECTED ATTENDEES**

None

## **COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

- N/A; introduction

## **DESCRIPTION/ISSUE**

Expedited Bill 19-26 would:

- (1) establish a temporary moratorium on permits for a data center issued by the Department of Permitting, Inspections, and Enforcement; and
- (2) generally amend the laws governing buildings and permitting in the County.

## **SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS**

- N/A

### **This report contains:**

Staff Report  
Expedited Bill 19-26

Pages 1-2  
© 1

**Alternative format requests for people with disabilities.** If you need assistance accessing this report you may [submit alternative format requests](#) to the ADA Compliance Manager. The ADA Compliance Manager can also be reached at 240-777-6197 (TTY 240-777-6196) or at [adacompliance@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:adacompliance@montgomerycountymd.gov)

**MEMORANDUM**

April 30, 2026

TO: County Council

FROM: Ludeen McCartney-Green, Legislative Attorney

SUBJECT: Expedited Bill 19-26, Buildings – Moratorium on Permits for Data Centers - Established

PURPOSE: Introduction - no Council votes required

Expedited Bill 19-26, Buildings – Moratorium on Permits for Data Centers – Established, sponsored by Lead Sponsor Councilmember Glass, is scheduled to be introduced on May 5, 2026. A public hearing is scheduled for June 16, 2026. An Economic Development (ECON) committee worksession will be scheduled at a later date.

Expedited Bill 19-26 would:

- (1) establish a temporary moratorium on permits for a data center issued by the Department of Permitting, Inspections, and Enforcement; and
- (2) generally amend the laws governing buildings and permitting in the County.

**PURPOSE**

As provided in the bill text, the purpose of the legislation is to allow the County time to study, evaluate, and adopt appropriate laws, zoning requirements, or regulations governing the permitting of data centers in the County.

**BILL SPECIFICS**

Expedited Bill 19-26 would temporarily prohibit the County’s Department of Permitting, Inspections, and Enforcement (DPS) Director from accepting, reviewing, or issuing a building or grading permit for an application for a data center facility. Essentially, this would establish a moratorium that immediately suspends permit approval processing for six months after the bill takes effect.

This bill would apply to an application for a data center under DPS’s purview that is: 1) filed on or after the bill’s effective date; 2) pending review; or 3) approved, but a permit has not been issued.

Expedited Bill 19-26 defines a data center as a building or group of buildings used to house computer systems, computer storage equipment, and associated infrastructure that businesses or other organizations use to organize, process, store, and disseminate large amounts of data.<sup>1</sup>

This packet contains:

Expedited Bill 19-26

Circle #

1

---

<sup>1</sup> The definition mirrors § 11-239 of the Tax General Article of the Maryland Annotated Code.

Expedited Bill No. 19-26  
Concerning: Buildings – Moratorium on  
Permits for Data Centers  
Revised: 4/27/2026 Draft No. 2  
Introduced: May 5, 2026  
Expiration: December 7, 2026  
Enacted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Executive: \_\_\_\_\_  
Effective: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sunset Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ch. \_\_\_\_\_, Laws of Mont. Co. \_\_\_\_\_

## COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

---

Lead Sponsor: Councilmember Glass

---

**AN EXPEDITED ACT** to:

- (1) establish a temporary moratorium on permits for a data center issued by the Department of Permitting, Inspections, and Enforcement; and
- (2) generally amend the laws governing buildings and permitting in the County.

By adding  
Montgomery County Code  
Chapter 8, Buildings  
Section 8-25C

<b>Boldface</b>	<i>Heading or defined term.</i>
<u>Underlining</u>	<i>Added to existing law by original bill.</i>
[Single boldface brackets]	<i>Deleted from existing law by original bill.</i>
<u>Double underlining</u>	<i>Added by amendment.</i>
[[Double boldface brackets]]	<i>Deleted from existing law or the bill by amendment.</i>
* * *	<i>Existing law unaffected by bill.</i>

*The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following Act:*

**Sec. 1. Section 8-25C is added as follows:**

**8-25C. Permits for data center – moratorium.**

- (a) *Purpose.* The purpose of this Section is to allow time for the County to study, evaluate, and adopt appropriate laws, zoning requirements, or regulations regarding the permitting of data centers in the County.
- (b) *Definition.* In this Section, a *data center* means a building or group of buildings used to house computer systems, computer storage equipment, and associated infrastructure that businesses or other organizations use to organize, process, store, and disseminate large amounts of data. A *data center* does not include a Cable Communications System as defined under Chapter 59 of the County’s Zoning Ordinance.
- (c) *Moratorium – established.* The Director must not accept, review, or issue a building or grading permit for an application for a data center during the effective period of this Section.

**Sec. 2. Expedited Effective Date; Transition.** The Council declares that this legislation is necessary for the immediate protection of the public interest. This Act takes effect on the date on which it becomes law. The amendments in Section 1 apply to a conditional use application for a data center that: (1) is filed prospectively on or after the effective date of this Act; (2) is pending review but not yet approved; or (3) is approved but without a permit.

**Sec. 3. Sunset.** This Act must expire six months after its effective date, with no further force or effect of law.