



Committee: ECON
Committee Review: At a future date
Staff: Livhu Ndou, Senior Legislative Attorney
Purpose: To introduce agenda item – no vote expected

CORRECTED
AGENDA ITEM #2B
May 12, 2026
Introduction

SUBJECT

Expedited Bill 24-26, Buildings – Building Permits – Data Center Moratorium

Lead Sponsor: Councilmember Jawando

EXPECTED ATTENDEES

None

COUNCIL DECISION POINTS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

- To introduce agenda item – no vote expected

DESCRIPTION/ISSUE

Expedited Bill 24-26, Buildings – Building Permits – Data Center Moratorium will establish a 2-year moratorium on the issuance of building permits for data centers.

SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- Expedited Bill 24-26, Buildings – Building Permits – Data Center Moratorium will define a data center.
- The bill will also establish a 2-year moratorium on the issuance of building permits for a data center.
- A public hearing is tentatively scheduled for June 16, 2026.

This report contains:

Staff Report
Expedited Bill 24-26

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MEMORANDUM

May 7, 2026

TO: County Council

FROM: Livhu Ndou, Senior Legislative Attorney

SUBJECT: Expedited Bill 24-26, Buildings – Building Permits – Data Center Moratorium

PURPOSE: Introduction

Expedited Bill 24-26, Buildings – Building Permits – Data Center Moratorium, lead sponsor Councilmember Jawando, will be introduced on May 12, 2026. The bill, as introduced, would do the following:

1. The bill will define data centers 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,” consistent with the [State law definition](#).
2. The bill will prohibit the Department of Permitting Services (DPS) from issuing a building permit for a data center. This prohibition will sunset 2 years after the effective date.
3. Since the bill is expedited, it will become effective on the date on which it becomes law. The prohibition on the issuance of building permits will apply to any building permit application that has not yet been approved as of that effective date.

A public hearing is tentatively scheduled for June 16, 2026.

This packet contains:
Expedited Bill 24-26

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Expedited Bill No. 24-26
Concerning: Buildings – Building Permits
– Data Center Moratorium
Revised: 5/6/2026 Draft No. 1
Introduced: May 12, 2026
Expires: December 7, 2026
Enacted: _____
Executive: _____
Effective: _____
Sunset Date: _____
Ch. _____, Laws of Mont. Co. _____

COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Lead Sponsor: Councilmember Jawando

AN EXPEDITED ACT to:

- (1) define data centers;
- (2) establish a temporary moratorium on the issuance of building permits for a data center;
and
- (3) generally amend the law regarding data centers.

By adding

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

Boldface	<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:

