

Data Centers



Proposed Legislation

- **House Bill 646 – Create the Data Center Study Commission**
 - Primary Sponsors: Rep. Gary Click (R, Vickery), Rep. Kellie Deeter (R, Norwalk)
- HB 646 aims to protect the immediate preservation of public peace, health, and safety.
 - The sponsors state there is an emergency necessity for this commission because of the lack of a specific regulatory structure or historical precedent regarding data centers in the state.
- The Commission would examine the following issues:
 - (1) Environmental Impact;
 - (2) Effect on the electrical grid;
 - (3) Water usage and impact on the local supply;
 - (4) Noise Pollution;
 - (5) Light Pollution;
 - (6) Impact on the local economy;
 - (7) Impact on farmland;
 - (8) Value to national security and the development of Artificial Intelligence (AI);
 - (9) Reports of foreign propaganda intended to create opposition to data centers;
 - (10) Any other relevant topics as determined by the commission.

Draft Ohio EPA General Permit

- In December 2025, the Ohio EPA sought public comments on a draft general permit for wastewater and stormwater discharges from data centers.
- The Clean Water Act prohibits discharges to waterways unless the discharge is authorized by a National Pollutants and Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The draft general permit seeks to ensure that data centers are in compliance with state and federal laws.
- The draft general permit aims to simplify the permitting process for data centers.
- Ohio EPA is reviewing the public input received during the public comment period before finalizing the general permit.

Ohio EPA Water Studies

- The Ohio EPA is conducting a comprehensive, regional water study with the goal of evaluating current water availability, current and projected water demand, as well as planning for the future.
- The studies aim to protect water resources as well as promote overall economic development by providing science-based water budgets.
- The Northwest Ohio water study is expected for 2027.

New in 2026: Virtual Quarterly Caucuses! Keep an eye on your email for more details!



HB 646, as introduced



Ohio EPA NPDES Draft



Ohio EPA NPDES Fact Sheet



Ohio EPA Water Study