

## SUPPORT HB 507 (McAuliffe):

# Limiting data center carbon dioxide-emitting backup generators

**Background:** This bill is a response to an emerging trend and recent DEQ approvals of a new category of diesel generators serving data centers for "non-emergency" use. There are now almost 2,000 approved non-emergency generators, about 20% of all approved generators statewide. Nearly 1,937 non-emergency diesel generators have already been approved across the Commonwealth to power data centers, many clustered near homes, schools, and neighborhoods.

## How this bill protects public health:

This bill adds a provision to Article 1 of Chapter 13 of Title 10.1, a new section numbered 10.1-1322.6 under "General Provisions" of the Air Pollution Control Board.

- Data center carbon dioxide emitting generators may only be used for emergency purposes and no generator can be used in excess of 500 hours.
- Beginning July 1, 2027, a data center must utilize energy storage as its primary backup power source for a minimum of 2 hours in an emergency.
- DEQ must notify property owners living within one-quarter mile of a data center if backup generators are operating continuously for more than four hours.
- DEQ must require data center operators to utilize monitoring devices, report the results monthly and make them available to the public.
- Air quality monitoring sites must be established within one-quarter mile of clusters of carbon emitting generators serving data centers in jurisdictions with more than 100 carbon emitting generators serving data centers.
- DEQ and the Department of Health must monitor and assess the cumulative impacts of data center backup generators and must take all measures available to reduce emissions and pollutants.
- Public notification is required when a new or modified emissions source is expected to emit any hazardous air pollutants or toxic air contaminants and the emissions release point is located within 3,000 feet of an infant or early childhood daycare, or school or a kindergarten through grade 12 school.

**Protect public health, strengthen air quality.**

## Support HB507

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