

SUPPORT HB589 | SB553

Topic: *Department of Environmental Quality; certain data from water users; water use consumption of data centers.*

Bill Patron: Delegate Shelly Simonds | Senator Kannan Srinivasan

OVERVIEW: Reporting to DEQ of Water Provided to Data Centers

Any user required to report pursuant to § 62.1-44.38 that provides water to a data center, as that term is defined in § 58.1-3506 of the Code of Virginia, shall also report the total volume of water, including the portion that is reclaimed water, the user provided to data centers during the reporting period on a monthly basis, or as frequent a basis as practicable. Includes a delayed enactment clause until Jan. 1, 2027.

REASONS TO SUPPORT HB589 & SB553:

- The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, whose responsibility it is to ensure safe and stable water supplies are available for all Virginians, does not receive data related to how much water is used by data centers on a monthly/annual basis
- Few data centers have their own water supply (permitted/unpermitted), therefore they are not subject to report. They receive water from municipal suppliers which results in water provided to data centers not being properly disclosed.
- DEQ is working with localities to create Regional Water Supply Plans that rely on having a complete set of data, including how much water is being used by data centers
- The data center boom in Virginia (data centers can use millions of gallons of water a day to cool their servers) comes at a time when groundwater supplies are dwindling, and surface waters are experiencing increasingly variable flows.



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