

2023 SESSION

INTRODUCED

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SENATE BILL NO. 1078

Offered January 11, 2023

Prefiled January 9, 2023

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 22 of Title 15.2 a section numbered 15.2-2209.3, relating to siting of data centers; impacts on resources; site assessment.

Patron—Petersen

Referred to Committee on Local Government

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 22 of Title 15.2 a section numbered 15.2-2209.3 as follows:

§ 15.2-2209.3. Siting of data centers; impacts on resources; site assessment.

A. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, general or special, any local government land use application required for the siting of a data center, as defined in § 58.1-3506, shall only be approved in areas where the data center (i) will have a minimal impact on historic, agricultural, and cultural resources and (ii) will not be within one mile of a national park or state park or other historically significant site, as designated by the Department of Historic Resources.

B. Prior to any such approval, a site assessment shall be performed to examine the effect of the data center on water usage and carbon emissions as well as any impacts on agricultural resources.

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