
DIGEST

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HB 1206 Original

2026 Regular Session

Walters

Abstract: Provides for water use permitting and reporting requirements for data centers and public hearings. Further provides for definitions and rulemaking authority.

Proposed law provides definitions for "data center" and "water use effectiveness".

Proposed law provides for data centers whose proposed consumptive use of water exceeds 100,000,000 gallons per year to obtain a permit from the Dept. of Conservation and Energy.

Proposed law provides for data centers to provide information to assist the dept. in assessing the ability of the water source to meet the project's needs and provides for the dept. to consider the impacts and technologies and measures used when issuing a permit.

Proposed law requires owners or operators of data centers to prepare and submit water usage reports to the Dept. of Conservation and Energy and for the dept. to publish the information on its website.

Proposed law provides for an owner or operator to notify the dept. of substantial changes in operations or technologies that would require and update to the water usage report at least 60 days prior to implementing the changes.

Proposed law provides that violators of proposed law or rules promulgated under proposed law are subject to penalties provided in present law (R.S. 30:18).

Proposed law prohibits permits from being issued for data centers by the Dept. of Environmental Quality without providing notice to the governing authority of any parish affected and conducting a hearing to receive public comment.

Proposed law provides for a unique identifier to be assigned to each data center project for transparency and for all permits associated with the data center to reference the unique identifier.

Proposed law provides for rules to be promulgated in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to establish, at a minimum, a fee schedule, procedures for notices and hearings, and any other rules necessary to comply with proposed law.

Proposed law provides that no permits can be issued for any data center without providing notice to the local governing authorities of parishes that are impacted and conducting a public hearing.

(Adds R.S. 30:1601-1603 and 2591-2592)

