

SB 34: Data Centers Pay Their Costs

Legislative Rubric from Science for Georgia

[SB 34](#) amends Code Section 46-3-11 and prohibits utilities from raising consumer power rates because of demand generated by data centers. It allows electricity rate changes for data center demand only if the cost is recovered solely from data centers.

Criteria	Variables			
Impact Who is going to be impacted? Is it equitable? List stakeholders & opinions.	Negative		Positive	
	This bill helps limit the impact of data centers' energy demands on consumers. Consumers will be positively impacted as this begins isolating data center demand costs from consumer bills . For context, average Georgia Power residential customers have seen their rates increase nearly \$45/month in the past year. Data centers may be negatively impacted if the Public Service Commission decides to tax them more and/or if utilities begin charging them more.			
Reach Does it reach its target audience?	0 - No impact on target audience.	1 - Impacts narrow segment.	2 - Impacts majority; exceptions.	3 - Impacts entire target audience
	This legislation leaves room for demand costs to be funded through some alternative mechanism.			
Scientific Merit Does it utilize scientific research accurately?	YES - this does follow scientific research accurately. Here's why....		NO - this does not present scientific research accurately.	
	This does follow scientific merit. Evidence shows that the increased demand from data centers has adverse effects on consumer prices.			
Financial Feasibility Is it financially feasible? or does this have burdensome finances (higher taxes, future costs, etc)?	0 - Extremely high costs	1 - Expensive but can be done	2 - Slight	3 - No financial burden
	No Financial Burden on the state or taxpayers. This bill also does not require higher rates for data centers. The only direct financial impact is positive for consumers, whose rates will not go up due to data center demand (rates could still rise for other reasons).			
Political Feasibility Level of opposition and partisan disagreement.	0 - Majority disagreed, regardless of party.	1 – Split along party lines	2 - Minimal Opposition	3 - Complete consensus (zero to five 'Nays').
	This bill was sponsored by a Republican; however, cosigners are 15 Democrats and only 4 Republicans.			
Measurable Metrics? We recommend looking at these 3 metrics. Is the data available or being measured?	0 - no data	1 - some data / not accessible	2 - most data / somewhat accessible	3 - complete transparency
	There are many unknowns surrounding data center utility and resource usage – this bill does not provide any mechanism to track those demands.			