

Role of the Federal Government in Noise Abatement

In the 1970s, noise standards were regulated at the federal level with the passage of the [Noise Control Act of 1972](#). Through this Act, the federal government led efforts in coordinating noise impacts on health research, establishing federal noise emission standards for products and providing public information on noise reduction.

The shift of noise oversight from the federal government to state and local governments began with the [Quiet Communities Act of 1978](#) which required the EPA to administer a nationwide Quiet Communities Program to assist local government in controlling noise levels and provide technical assistance to State and local governments in implementing noise control programs. In 1981, Congress cut the EPA’s Office of Noise Abatement Control funding, ending federal action on noise control. Although the Noise Control Act and the Quiet Communities Act were never rescinded, this shifted the primary responsibility of noise regulation to the State and local governments.

Below are relevant resources that may be helpful in your search, including a list of state noise ordinances as well as recent state legislation related to monitoring noise pollution of data centers.

- Resources:
 - [State Noise Ordinances & Regulations](#)
 - [City Noise Ordinances and Regulations](#)
 - [Noise Ordinances](#)

Legislation related to Data Center Abatement

State	Bill	Description
Colorado	SB 1030 (<i>Pending, 2026</i>)	Includes “noise” in “cumulative impacts” definition. Requires a operator or developer of a large-load data center proposed in a disproportionately impacted community to undergo a cumulative impacts analysis before the development or expansion begins.
Florida	HB 1007 (<i>Failed, 2026</i>)	Requires an applicant for a construction permit for a data center within 5 miles of any residential property or school as measured from the proposed location of the nearest noise producing structure on the proposed data center site, to demonstrate compliance with federal and state rules relating to noise control or abatement ordinances. Additionally, the applicant must submit an independently prepared noise impact study that uses scientifically accepted methodologies. The study must address the expected levels of noise emissions from operation of the proposed data center as compared to no-build noise emission levels and address the impacts of all noise mitigation measures proposed by the applicant. Such measures may include facility soundproofing measures, external noise attenuation measures, low-frequency noise attenuation measures, low-noise equipment and natural or geographic features.
Minnesota	HB 4888 (<i>Pending, 2026</i>)	Establishes a moratorium for data centers. Requires the Public Utility Commission to submit a comprehensive report that assesses various possible scenarios for data center development in Minnesota. The report must analyze the cumulative impacts on water use, noise, and light when considering suitable locations for data centers.

Missouri	HB 2239 (<i>Pending, 2026</i>)	Requires each operator of data centers to submit an environmental and health report to the Department of Natural Resources including information on noise, traffic, or land-use impacts.
	HB 3390 (<i>Pending, 2026</i>)	Provides the department shall require the use of noise-control measures as part of hyperscale data center construction projects located adjacent to or along a highway or upon request of an owner of property adjacent to such a project or a political subdivision. Requires all hyperscale data center construction projects to be developed in conformity with federal standards for noise abatement as contained in 23 CFR 772.
New York	AB 10141 (<i>Pending, 2026</i>)	Requires the department, in consultation with the department of public service and the federally designated bulk system operator, to prepare a generic environmental impact statement on data center development in this state. The impact study must include the level of noise pollution produced by each data center, with projections for proposed and projected data centers, at regular intervals beginning at the property line of the data center and extending half a mile.
South Carolina	SB 867 (<i>Pending, 2026</i>)	Requires data center to implement reasonable measures to minimize noise, vibration and light impacts, including specific noise level limits of 60 dBA during day hour and 50 dBA during night hours at residential property boundaries.
South Dakota	SB 127 (<i>Failed, 2026</i>)	Establishes a data center may not exceed a continuous noise level of forty-five decibels, measured according to federal or local environmental standards, at the nearest property line of a residential area.
Vermont	SB 205 (<i>Pending, 2026</i>)	Requires the Public Utility Commission, with input from the Department of Public Service and all other interested parties, shall open an investigation into the construction and operation of AI data centers in Vermont. Requires the commission to consider the environmental impacts of an AI data center including noise emissions.
Wisconsin	AB 1099 (<i>Failed, 2026</i>)	Prohibits the operation of a data center in Wisconsin unless the creation of data center specific safeguards concerning air, water and noise pollution to protect the environment and people's health.