

Senate Bill 11 - Prefile

By: Senator Carter of the 1st

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 1 of Chapter 5 of Title 12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
2 relating to general provisions relative to water resources, so as to reestablish the Georgia  
3 Geospatial Advisory Council and provide for its membership; to provide for definitions;  
4 to provide legislative intent; to provide for duties; to provide for rules and regulations; to  
5 provide for automatic repeal; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and  
6 for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Article 1 of Chapter 5 of Title 12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to  
10 general provisions relative to water resources, is amended by adding a new Code section to  
11 read as follows:

12 "12-5-9.

13 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

14 (1) 'Director' means the director of the division.

15 (2) 'Division' means the Environmental Protection Division of the department.

16 (b) It is the intent of the General Assembly to provide the general public with access to  
17 reliable geospatial data, including but not limited to flood map modernization. Currently,  
18 Georgia lacks many of the components which would provide for reliable data such as  
19 geospatial coordination and collaboration, policies, standards, state-wide geospatial  
20 datasets, current inventory, state-wide license agreements, business and strategic plans,  
21 trained work force, data life cycle support, and contract and program management support.

22 (c)(1) In order to provide reliable geospatial data to the public, there shall be created the  
23 Georgia Geospatial Advisory Council. The division shall coordinate the creation of such  
24 council. The division shall coordinate with state executive branch departments and  
25 agencies to appoint members of the council, which may consist of representatives from  
26 state departments and agencies, local governments, universities, regional commissions,

27 or any other entity the division determines to be a stakeholder active in the development  
28 or consumption of reliable geospatial resources.

29 (2) The council shall meet initially upon the call of the director and shall elect a  
30 chairperson at the initial meeting. Subsequent meetings shall be called by the  
31 chairperson. The members of the council shall serve at the pleasure of the director.  
32 Councilmembers shall receive no compensation for their services as members of the  
33 council, but their travel expenses, if any, related to the performance of their official duties  
34 may be covered by the departments, agencies, or organizations they represent.

35 (3) The council shall audit Georgia's geospatial capabilities at county, regional, and state  
36 levels. The audit shall contain a complete status update and recommendations for  
37 utilizing the geospatial capabilities in Georgia to meet Federal Emergency Management  
38 Agency notification requirements, recommendations for moving forward to achieve  
39 governmental data interoperability and enhanced delivery of services to Georgia citizens  
40 through the geospatial approach, and any other information determined by the council to  
41 be necessary for the advancement of geospatial technology.

42 (4) The council shall closely coordinate its efforts with the Georgia Technology  
43 Authority to ensure compliance with all state and federal standards, contracts, and  
44 procedures.

45 (5) The reports generated by the council shall be made available on an annual basis by  
46 the department to the members of the General Assembly, all departments and agencies  
47 of state government, and all county and municipal governments and shall be posted on  
48 the Internet website of the department.

49 (d) The Board of Natural Resources shall promulgate such rules and regulations as may  
50 be reasonable and necessary for the administration of this Code section.

51 (e) This Code section shall stand repealed on June 30, 2016."

52 **SECTION 2.**

53 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.