

Senate Bill 11

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.