

The House Committee on Natural Resources and Environment offers the following substitute to SB 11:

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; to  
4 provide legislative intent; to provide for duties and powers; to provide for rules and  
5 regulations; to provide for effect; to provide for automatic repeal; to provide for related  
6 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and 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.

25 (2) The council shall consist of the executive officer, or his or her designee, of each of  
26 the following entities of this state:

- 27 (A) Association County Commissioners of Georgia;  
 28 (B) Department of Community Affairs;  
 29 (C) Department of Economic Development;  
 30 (D) Department of Homeland Security;  
 31 (E) Department of Natural Resources;  
 32 (F) Department of Public Health;  
 33 (G) Department of Revenue;  
 34 (H) Department of Transportation;  
 35 (I) Environmental Protection Division;  
 36 (J) Georgia Association of Regional Commissions;  
 37 (K) Georgia Emergency Management Agency;  
 38 (L) Georgia Environmental Finance Authority;  
 39 (M) Georgia Municipal Association;  
 40 (N) Georgia Technology Authority;  
 41 (O) Office of Planning and Budget;  
 42 (P) State Forestry Commission; and  
 43 (Q) State Properties Commission.

44 No member shall continue to serve on the council if no longer an employee or officer of  
 45 the entity he or she represents. Additional entities may seek consideration for  
 46 membership by request and shall be appointed by majority vote of the council. The  
 47 chairperson of the Georgia Geographical Informations Systems Coordinating Committee  
 48 shall serve on the council in a nonvoting advisory capacity.

49 (3) The council shall meet initially upon the call of the director and shall elect a  
 50 chairperson at the initial meeting. Subsequent meetings shall be called by the  
 51 chairperson; provided, however, that the council shall meet at least quarterly.  
 52 Councilmembers shall receive no compensation for their services as members of the  
 53 council, but their travel expenses, if any, related to the performance of their official duties  
 54 may be covered by the departments, agencies, or organizations they represent.

55 (d) In carrying out its purposes under this Code section, the council shall have the  
 56 following general duties and powers:

57 (1) To monitor, study, and ascertain, in cooperation with other state and local agencies  
 58 and any agency of the United States government, the state's present geospatial  
 59 capabilities, the need for strengthening capabilities, and the extent to which such needs  
 60 are being currently met;

61 (2) To strategically plan for a sustainable state geographical informations systems  
 62 program;

63 (3) To seek input from relevant stakeholders;

- 64 (4) To compile and disseminate reports;  
65 (5) To coordinate with and make recommendations to the Governor, the General  
66 Assembly, state agencies, counties, municipalities, and other political subdivisions of this  
67 state regarding geographical informations systems; and  
68 (6) To adopt bylaws for the conduct of its business.
- 69 (e) The council shall audit Georgia's geospatial capabilities at county, regional, and state  
70 levels. The audit shall contain a complete status update and recommendations for utilizing  
71 the geospatial capabilities in Georgia to meet Federal Emergency Management Agency  
72 notification requirements, recommendations for moving forward to achieve governmental  
73 data interoperability and enhanced delivery of services to Georgia citizens through the  
74 geospatial approach, and any other information determined by the council to be necessary  
75 for the advancement of geospatial technology.
- 76 (f) The council shall closely coordinate its efforts with the Georgia Technology Authority  
77 to ensure compliance with all state and federal standards, contracts, and procedures.
- 78 (g) The reports generated by the council shall be made available on an annual basis by the  
79 department to the members of the General Assembly, all departments and agencies of state  
80 government, and all county and municipal governments and shall be posted on the Internet  
81 website of the department.
- 82 (h) The Board of Natural Resources shall promulgate such rules and regulations as may  
83 be reasonable and necessary for the administration of this Code section.
- 84 (i) This Code section shall not in any way affect regulation of professional engineers and  
85 land surveyors pursuant to Chapter 15 of Title 43.
- 86 (j) This Code section shall stand repealed on June 30, 2016."

87 **SECTION 2.**

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