

Senate Bill 361

By: Senators Carter of the 1st and Jeffares of the 17th

AS PASSED SENATE

**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 create the Georgia
3 Geospatial Advisory Council; to provide for its members and purposes; to provide for
4 reports; to provide for automatic repeal; to provide for related matters; to provide for an
5 effective date; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

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

11 "12-5-9.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

50 (e) This Code section shall stand repealed on June 30, 2017."

51 **SECTION 2.**

52 This Act shall become effective on July 1, 2014.

53 **SECTION 3.**

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