

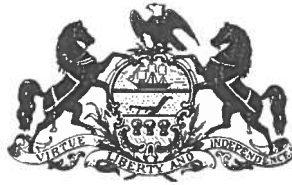
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*House of Representatives*  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** All House Members

**FROM:** Representative Russ Fairchild *RF*

**DATE:** March 11, 2010

**RE:** **Proposed Legislation - State Geospatial Coordinating Council**

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In the near future, I will be introducing legislation to establish the State Geospatial Coordinating Council and the Pennsylvania Mapping and Geospatial Technologies Fund.

The fund shall consist of public and private grants, donations, state appropriations and contributions from members of the council and from foundations, and other external private and governmental entities.

As you may know, "Geospatial information" is simply information about the geographic location of things. The information can be as simple as displaying the location of parcels, streets, toxic waste sites or new building permits or as complex as identifying crime hot spots and defining optional police patrol routes. Federal, state and local governments routinely collect and use geospatial information in their everyday activities for emergency response, transportation, economic development, education, land use planning, market analysis, and asset and resource location to name a few.

The Council will provide advice and recommendations to the Governor, General Assembly, and the citizens of this Commonwealth on geospatial issues, providing for uniformity, data standards, coordination, and the efficiency of geospatial policy and technology issues among Federal, State, and local government agencies, academic institutions, and the private sector.

The State Geospatial Coordinating Council shall consist of seventeen members. The Council shall include persons knowledgeable in the fields related to geographic information systems, such as, but not limited to, geospatial technology, data development and standards, data sharing, county government, local government, municipal planning and municipal authorities. The bill will amend the Administrative Code of 1929.

This Council will encourage coordination, cooperation, and cost savings among government agencies and the private sector, which will better develop geospatial information and technology infrastructure as a strategic resource for Pennsylvania's economy and government. The expected minimal operational costs to the Commonwealth for utilizing meeting space and administrative assistance should easily be outweighed by the cost savings of increased efficiency and more productive data sharing at the State and local levels.

To be added as a co-sponsor, contact Vinnæ Alcendor in my Harrisburg office at 787-3443 or by email at [valcendo@pahousegop.com](mailto:valcendo@pahousegop.com). I have requested and reserved a bill number, when introduced this legislation will be House Bill 2300. Attached is a copy of the proposed legislation.

## AN ACT

1 Amending the act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), entitled  
2 "An act providing for and reorganizing the conduct of the  
3 executive and administrative work of the Commonwealth by the  
4 Executive Department thereof and the administrative  
5 departments, boards, commissions, and officers thereof,  
6 including the boards of trustees of State Normal Schools, or  
7 Teachers Colleges; abolishing, creating, reorganizing or  
8 authorizing the reorganization of certain administrative  
9 departments, boards, and commissions; defining the powers and  
10 duties of the Governor and other executive and administrative  
11 officers, and of the several administrative departments,  
12 boards, commissions, and officers; fixing the salaries of the  
13 Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and certain other executive  
14 and administrative officers; providing for the appointment of  
15 certain administrative officers, and of all deputies and  
16 other assistants and employes in certain departments, boards,  
17 and commissions; and prescribing the manner in which the  
18 number and compensation of the deputies and all other  
19 assistants and employes of certain departments, boards and  
20 commissions shall be determined," providing for the State  
21 Geospatial Coordinating Council.

22 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
23 hereby enacts as follows:

24 Section 1. The act of April 9, 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known  
25 as The Administrative Code of 1929, is amended by adding a  
26 section to read:

27 Section 432.1. State Geospatial Coordinating Council.--(a)

1 The State Geospatial Coordinating Council shall be an advisory  
2 board within the Governor's Office with the same status under  
3 this act as that of advisory boards. The council is established  
4 to provide advice and recommendations to the Governor and the  
5 citizens of this Commonwealth on geospatial issues, providing  
6 for uniformity, data standards, coordination and the efficiency  
7 of geospatial policy and technology issues among Federal, State  
8 and local government agencies, academic institutions and the  
9 private sector.

10 (b) The State Geospatial Coordinating Council shall consist  
11 of the following members:

12 (1) Nine members designated by the Governor from among the  
13 citizens of this Commonwealth who shall include:

14 (i) One member shall be a representative of the judicial  
15 branch.

16 (ii) One member shall be a county commissioner at the time  
17 of appointment.

18 (iii) One member shall be a county planning director.

19 (iv) One member shall be an local official from an urban or  
20 suburban Pennsylvania community.

21 (v) One member shall be a local official from a rural  
22 Pennsylvania community.

23 (vi) One member shall be from an accredited institution of  
24 higher education in this Commonwealth.

25 (vii) One member shall be a member of the Pennsylvania  
26 Society of Land Surveyors.

27 (viii) Two members shall derive part of their livelihood  
28 from geospatial-related activities or otherwise be actively  
29 involved in geospatial activities in the private sector.

30 (2) One member designated by the President pro tempore of

1 the Senate.

2 (3) One member designated by the Minority Leader of the  
3 Senate.

4 (4) One member designated by the Speaker of the House of  
5 Representatives.

6 (5) One member designated by the Minority Leader of the  
7 House of Representatives.

8 (6) One member designated by the Pennsylvania One Call  
9 System.

10 (7) One member designated by the Pennsylvania chapter of the  
11 Management Association for Private Photogrammetric Surveyors.

12 (8) One member designated by the County GIS Professional  
13 Association.

14 (9) One member designated by the Pennsylvania Mapping and  
15 Geographic Consortium.

16 The members of the council shall include persons knowledgeable  
17 in the fields related to geographic information systems, such as  
18 geospatial technology, data development, architecture standards,  
19 data sharing, county government, local government, municipal  
20 planning and municipal authorities. The appointees shall serve  
21 at the pleasure of the appointing authority. The members  
22 appointed by the Governor shall not hold any other office in the  
23 executive branch for which a salary is paid.

24 (c) The council shall also include the following nonvoting  
25 ex officio members or their designees:

26 (1) The Secretary of Administration.

27 (2) The Secretary of Environmental Protection.

28 (3) The Secretary of Conservation and Natural Resources.

29 (4) The Secretary of Emergency Management.

30 (5) The Secretary of Transportation.

1 (6) The Commonwealth's representative from the United States  
2 Geological Survey.

3 (7) The executive director of Pennsylvania Spatial Data  
4 Access.

5 (d) The terms of office of those members appointed by the  
6 Governor shall be for four years and until their successors are  
7 appointed and have qualified. In case of a vacancy, the Governor  
8 shall make an appointment for the unexpired portion of the term.  
9 An organizational designee shall serve a term of three years. In  
10 the case of a vacancy, the appropriate organization shall  
11 provide a designee for the unexpired portion of the term.

12 (e) The Governor shall designate the chairman and vice-  
13 chairman of the council from among the members of the council,  
14 other than the ex officio and legislative members. The council  
15 shall meet not less than four times yearly. Additional meetings  
16 shall be at the discretion of the chairperson. Eleven members of  
17 the council shall constitute a quorum.

18 (f) The members of the council shall serve without  
19 compensation but shall be entitled to receive travel and other  
20 reasonable expenses incurred in the discharge of their duties.  
21 The council may, with the approval of the Governor, appoint and  
22 fix the compensation of an executive director who shall be  
23 technically qualified for the duties of the office and who shall  
24 act as secretary of the council and conduct the work of the  
25 council under its supervision.

26 (g) The council shall have the power to employ and fix the  
27 compensation of such experts, stenographers and assistants as  
28 may be deemed necessary to carry out the work on the council,  
29 but due diligence shall be exercised by the council to enlist  
30 such voluntary assistance as may be available from citizens,

1 research organizations and other agencies in this Commonwealth  
2 or elsewhere, generally recognized as qualified to aid the  
3 council.

4 (h) The council shall have the following powers and duties:

5 (1) Recommend data development priorities and  
6 interoperability standards for data sharing across agencies and  
7 different units of government across this Commonwealth.

8 (2) Monitor national and State trends, identify issues of  
9 potential interest and concern to the Commonwealth and prepare  
10 for the Governor and the General Assembly on an annual basis, or  
11 more often if necessary, reports detailing the findings of the  
12 board.

13 (3) Develop strategic plans and programs to promote and  
14 enhance the development and deployment of geographic information  
15 systems and geospatial technology investments in this  
16 Commonwealth and make such recommendations to the Governor as  
17 the council deems proper and advisable.

18 (4) Develop task forces by issue to formulate recommended  
19 positions or actions. The task force membership may be comprised  
20 of council members or designees appointed by the council. The  
21 council shall consider any task force recommendations at its  
22 next meeting.

23 (5) Gather information and input from Federal, State and  
24 local government officials, private business and citizens in  
25 this Commonwealth as part of the process of developing strategic  
26 plans and programs.

27 (i) The Pennsylvania Mapping and Geospatial Technologies  
28 Fund is established in the State Treasury.

29 (1) Moneys from the fund shall be used for administrative  
30 and personnel costs of the council and its staff as expressed in

1 the general and discretionary powers of the council.

2 (2) The fund shall consist of public and private grants,  
3 donations, State appropriations and contributions from members  
4 of the council and from foundations, and other private and  
5 governmental entities.

6 (3) The fund shall receive and accept grants, appropriations  
7 aid or contributions, from any source, of money, property or  
8 labor or other things of value to be held, used and applied to  
9 carry out the purposes of this act, subject to the conditions  
10 upon which grants and contributions may be made under section  
11 513, including, but not limited to, gifts or grants from any  
12 department or agency of the United States or the Commonwealth.

13 (4) The State Treasurer shall invest the moneys in the fund  
14 not currently needed to meet the obligations of the fund in the  
15 same manner as other public money may be invested. Interest that  
16 accrues from these investments shall be deposited in the fund.

17 (5) Money remaining in the fund at the end of each fiscal  
18 year shall remain in the fund and shall not lapse to the General  
19 Fund.

20 (j) The Office of Administration shall provide assistance to  
21 the council as requested by the chairman of the council.

22 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.