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1 HB97
2 2JNEYKS-1
3 By Representative Pringle
4 RFD: State Government
5 First Read: 13-Jan-26
6 PFD: 17-Dec-25



4 SYNOPSIS:

5 This bill would create the Alabama Geographic
6 Information Executive Council (GIS Council) and the
7 Alabama Geographic Information Program Office (GIS
8 Office), already in existence by Executive Order of the
9 Governor, to be the coordinating authority for the
10 collection of geographic information system (GIS) data
11 in the State of Alabama.

12 This bill would further provide for coordination
13 between the GIS Office, as operating arm of the GIS
14 Council, and the 911 Board, recognizing that the GIS
15 Office is the central repository for statewide GIS data
16 while the 911 Board is authorized to gather and
17 maintain the accuracy of GIS data for the provision of
18 emergency 911 services.

20 A BILL

21 TO BE ENTITLED

22 AN ACT

23
24 Relating to geographic information technology; to add
25 Chapter 27A, commencing with Section 41-27A-1, to Title 41 of
26 the Code of Alabama 1975, to establish the Alabama Geographic
27 Information Executive Council, the Alabama Geographic
28 Information Program Office, the State of Alabama Geographic



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Information Officer, and an advisory committee; and to provide for coordination between the Alabama Geographic Information Executive Council and Alabama Geographic Information Program Office with the 911 Board; to amend Section 11-98-4.1, Code of Alabama 1975, to further provide for the authority of the 911 Board to compile and maintain geographic information system data for emergency 911 services; and to make nonsubstantive, technical revisions to update existing code language to current style.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Chapter 27A, commencing with Section 41-27A-1, is added to Title 41 of the Code of Alabama 1975, to read as follows:

§41-27A-1

The Legislature finds all of the following:

(1) The development, use, and sharing of geographic information, geospatial data, and the efficient use of geographic information system (GIS) technology are yielding sustained, long-term benefits to the people of Alabama, with innumerable applications that serve economic development, enhance governmental operations, protect natural resources, and simplify human activity.

(2) Because public agencies expend considerable resources collecting and managing geographic information in diverse formats and scales, it is necessary to require coordination and direction in the development and implementation of GIS to continually improve the delivery of public services, to reduce redundancy and duplication of



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57 effort, and to prevent the spread of erroneous geographic
58 information in activities that demand urgency such as
59 emergency response.

60 (3) The management and coordination of GIS is currently
61 entrusted to the Alabama Geographic Information Executive
62 Council, the Alabama Geographic Information Program Office,
63 and the Advisory Committee, all created by executive order.

64 (4) The 911 Board, and by extension the local emergency
65 communication districts, are charged by legislative act with
66 the "efficient and effective delivery" of enhanced 911
67 service, a duty that explicitly requires the collection and
68 remediation of geospatial information into GIS mapping.

69 (5) The Legislature wishes to enable formal
70 coordination between the Alabama Geographic Information
71 Program Office, as the operating arm of the Alabama Geographic
72 Information Executive Council, and the 911 Board, while
73 maintaining the boundaries of their authorized duties and
74 functions.

75 §41-27A-2

76 (a) The Alabama Geographic Information Executive
77 Council (Executive Council) is established as an independent
78 council to develop policies regarding the use of geographic
79 information, geographic information systems (GIS), and other
80 related technologies, to include all of the following
81 responsibilities:

82 (1) Strategic planning for a sustainable state program
83 for GIS.

84 (2) Resolution of policy and technology issues.



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(3) Coordination of interagency development of a high quality, accurate framework for geospatial data.

(4) Coordination, direction, and facilitation of state, county, and local government GIS efforts.

(5) Development of educational outreach to coordinate geospatial training initiatives.

(6) Provision of advice to the Governor, Legislature, and local governing bodies on needed direction, responsibilities, and funding regarding geospatial information.

(7) Evaluation and determination of staffing requirements for GIS coordination at the state level.

(8) Solicitation of input from all stakeholders at all levels of government and the private sector, including public utilities, business professionals, industry leaders, and others with a vested interest in GIS.

(b)(1) The membership of the Executive Council shall consist of all of the following, or their designees:

a. The Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries.

b. The Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

c. The Commissioner of the Department of Revenue.

d. The Director of the Department of Economic and Community Affairs.

e. The Director of the Alabama Department of Environmental Management.

f. The Executive Director of the 911 Board.



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g. The Director of the Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center.

h. The Director of the Department of Finance.

i. The Director of the Alabama Department of Workforce.

j. The Director of the Department of Public Safety.

k. The Director of the State Department of Transportation.

l. The Director of the Alabama Emergency Management Agency.

m. The Secretary of the Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency.

n. The Secretary of the State Office of Information Technology.

o. The State Geologist & Oil and Gas Supervisor of the Geological Survey of Alabama.

p. The Director of the Association of County Commissions of Alabama.

q. The Director of the Alabama League of Municipalities.

r. Any additional member appointed by the Governor.

(2) Appointments to the Executive Council shall be coordinated to assure that council membership is inclusive and reflects the racial, gender, geographic, urban, rural, and economic diversity of the state.

(3) Members shall serve terms that coincide with their respective offices or appointments. No individual shall continue to serve on the Executive Council when he or she, or if applicable, the designating officer, no longer serves in



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the office to which he or she was elected or appointed.

(4) The Governor shall designate a Chair from the membership.

(5) The Executive Council shall meet at the call of the Chair and proceedings shall be subject to state law and administrative procedure.

(6) The Executive Council may subdivide itself into standing committees and work groups to accomplish its responsibilities.

(7) Members shall serve without compensation and be reimbursed by their respective departments or agencies or, if applicable, according to the policy of their respective organizations.

§41-27A-3

(a) The Alabama Geographic Information Program Office (GIS Office) is established to be the operating arm of the Executive Council. Except as provided in Section 41-27A-5, the GIS Office shall be the sole instrumentality of the state for coordination of geographic information, GIS, and other geospatial-related technologies by all state departments and agencies or state-funded entities.

(b) The GIS Office shall be a division in the Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA), which shall provide administrative services for the GIS office.

(c) (1) The GIS Office shall be managed by a director, who shall be the Geographic Information Officer (GIO), who shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor.



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(2) The GIO shall be assisted by a deputy, who shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

(3) The GIO shall manage the GIS Office subject to the policies, standards, guidance, and instruction of the Executive Council.

(d) The GIS Office shall identify, plan, and implement the most efficient and effective means to use and integrate geographic information as a strategic management resource, to include all of the following duties:

(1) Identify duplicative geospatial acquisitions, initiatives, and operations across state government and recommend efforts to minimize duplication of such activities.

(2) Maintain a master index of all geographic information maintained by any political subdivision of the state or other state-funded entity.

(3) Maintain a central repository and data services for the storage of, or access to, any geographic information that may be lawfully used for state or for local government geospatial-related operations or for any lawful private sector activity.

(4) Assist government operations with implementation of state geospatial standards as adopted by the Executive Council.

(5) Through ALEA, coordinate procurements, pool funds, negotiate and enter into contracts or memoranda of understanding in furtherance of GIS Office duties.

(6) Provide administrative and technical support to the Executive Council.



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(e) (1) The GIS Office may receive funds from the State General Fund or Education Trust Fund which are appropriated by the Legislature for the purposes provided in this chapter, subject to any law governing any expenditure of appropriations from the State General Fund or Education Trust Fund.

(2) The GIS Office may receive gifts, grants, and any other funding available by law and may recoup costs for services rendered or other expenditures directly related to the duties enumerated in subsection (d).

(3) The GIS Office shall provide, upon request, an accounting to ALEA of all funds expended, available, committed, or encumbered.

§41-27A-4

(a) (1) An Advisory Committee is established to ensure that state and local interests are considered by the GIS Executive Council.

(2) The Advisory Committee shall have all of the following purposes:

a. Foster communication and cooperation among state, local, and federal agencies, educational institutions, private industry, and others concerning GIS.

b. Provide guidance and advice to the Executive Council in the fulfillment of the council's responsibilities.

c. Promote discussion among stakeholders of GIS issues relevant to the state and provide advice to the GIS community.

(b) The GIO shall serve as the Chair of the Advisory Committee.

(c) The GIO shall select advisory committee members who



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shall serve at the pleasure of the GIO. The GIO shall ensure that the committee has a statewide representation of stakeholders who are familiar with water resources, air resources, agricultural resources, energy resources, cultural resources, land resources, mineral resources, environmental management, forestry, geology, health, local government, planning, public safety, criminal justice, social services, transportation, utilities, waste management, homeland security, and wildlife management.

(d) The GIO may create subcommittees with defined tasks, appoint, replace, or remove members of the subcommittees, and abolish subcommittees.

§41-27A-5

(a) In aid of the role and duties of the GIS Office as the statewide coordinator and central repository for geographic information pursuant to Section 41-27A-3, the 911 Board is recognized as the sole authority for the gathering, remediation, and maintenance of geographic information for the provision of emergency 911 services to the residents of Alabama, pursuant to Section 11-98-4.1.

(b) The 911 Board shall regularly inform the Executive Council and the GIO on its GIS data gathering and remediation activities, GIS auditing and monitoring protocols, and operational policies to ensure the utmost coordination between the GIS Office and the 911 Board in similar or parallel tasks and responsibilities to avoid duplication and enhance uniformity in protocols, standards, data gathering, maintenance, and storage wherever possible and efficient.



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(c) Pursuant to its duties, the GIS Office shall recognize the unique competence of the 911 Board and the local emergency communication districts due to the critical function of emergency response for which the 911 Board and the local emergency communication districts are responsible.

Section 2. Section 11-98-4.1, Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:

"§11-98-4.1

(a) There is created a statewide 911 Board. The board shall be comprised of 13 members. All appointing authorities shall coordinate their appointments to assure the board membership is inclusive and reflects the racial, gender, geographic, urban, rural, and economic diversity of the state. The 911 Board shall be created effective July 1, 2012, and until the effective date of the statewide 911 charge pursuant to Section 11-98-5, with cooperation of the CMRS Board, shall plan for the implementation of the statewide 911 charge and the distribution of the revenues as provided ~~herein~~in this chapter. The reasonable administrative expenses incurred by the 911 Board prior to the implementation of the statewide 911 charge may be deducted from the existing CMRS Fund. Upon the effective date of the new statewide 911 charge, the 911 Board shall replace and supersede the CMRS Board formerly created pursuant to this chapter, and the CMRS Fund shall be incorporated into, and considered part of, the 911 Fund.

(b) The 13 members of the 911 Board, each of whom shall serve for a term of four years, shall be appointed by the Governor as follows:



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(1) Seven members recommended by the Alabama Association of 911 Districts, one from each of the seven congressional districts, with each recommended district representative ~~recommended~~ selected by vote of the Alabama Association of 911 Districts members from that congressional district. The initial appointments shall include the three district representatives on the CMRS Board who shall serve through March 31, 2014, and a member from the first, third, fifth, and seventh congressional districts as provided ~~herein~~ in this section. Following the March 31, 2014, expiration of the terms of the district representatives drawn from the CMRS Board, the Governor shall appoint a member recommended by the Association of 911 Districts from each of the second, fourth, and sixth congressional districts, it being the intent of this section that each of the seven district representatives on the board be from a different congressional district, as such districts exist on May 8, 2012.

(2) Two members recommended by CMRS providers licensed to do business in Alabama.

(3) Two members recommended by incumbent local exchange carriers operating in Alabama, who shall not be from the same local exchange carrier.

(4) Two members recommended by cable companies that provide interconnected VoIP services in Alabama, who shall not be from the same cable company.

(c) For purposes of the initial board appointments, ~~7~~ 5 ~~(1)~~ (i) five members of the board shall be appointed for a



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309 four-year term; ~~(2)~~ (ii) four members for a three-year term;
310 ~~(3)~~ (iii) the three members of the CMRS Board who are appointed
311 pursuant to subdivision (b)(1) to terms ending on March 31,
312 2014; and ~~(4)~~ (iv) the remaining member for a two-year term.
313 Thereafter, board members shall serve staggered terms of four
314 years. In the event of a vacancy, the vacancy shall be filled
315 for the balance of the unexpired term in the same manner as
316 the original appointment. Any vacancy occurring on the 911
317 Board, whether for an expired or unexpired term, shall be
318 filled by appointment as soon as practicable after the vacancy
319 occurs, whether for an expired or unexpired term.

320 (d) For all terms expiring after June 1, 2014, the
321 governmental entities or industry groups identified in
322 subsection (b) shall recommend at least two different
323 individuals for each board position for which they are charged
324 with making a recommendation, with the Governor appointing a
325 member from among ~~such~~ the recommended candidates. For all
326 terms expiring after July 1, 2015, appointments made by the
327 Governor shall be subject to confirmation by the Senate as
328 provided in this subsection. Appointments made at times when
329 the Senate is not in session shall be effective immediately ad
330 interim and shall serve until the Senate acts on the
331 appointment as provided herein. Any appointment made while the
332 Senate is not in session shall be submitted to the Senate not
333 later than the third legislative day following the reconvening
334 of the Legislature. ~~In the event~~ If the Senate fails or refuses
335 to act on the appointment, the individual whose name was
336 submitted shall continue to serve until action is taken on the



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337 appointment by the Senate.

338 (e) The statewide 911 Board shall have the following
339 powers and duties:

340 (1) To develop and publish a 911 Annual Report. In
341 fulfilling this duty, the 911 Board shall monitor trends in
342 voice communications service technology and in enhanced 911
343 service technology, investigate, and incorporate Geographical
344 Information Systems (GIS) mapping and other resources into the
345 report, and include recommended strategies for the efficient
346 and effective delivery of enhanced 911 service. In addition,
347 the board shall study the rates charged for 911 services and
348 make adjustments to the rates as provided in this chapter;
349 recommend any statutory changes necessary to ensure the most
350 efficient and effective delivery of 911 services in Alabama
351 over both the ~~long~~-long-term and short-term; and provide a
352 copy of its 911 Annual Report to members of the boards of the
353 districts in the state through the Alabama Association of 911
354 Districts.

355 (2) To administer the 911 Fund and the monthly
356 statewide 911 charge authorized by Section 11-98-5.

357 ~~(3) To;~~ to accept gifts, grants, or other monies for
358 the 911 Fund; and to distribute revenue in the 911 Fund in
359 accordance with this chapter.

360 ~~(4)~~ (3) To establish policies and procedures, ~~adopted in~~
361 ~~accordance with the Alabama Administrative Procedure Act, to~~
362 ~~fund~~ for the funding of advisory services, grants, and
363 training for districts; and to provide funds ~~in accordance~~
364 ~~with these policies and procedures~~ to the extent funds are



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365 available.

366 ~~(5)~~ (4) To ~~make and~~ enter into contracts ~~and agreements~~
367 necessary or incidental to the performance of its powers and
368 duties under this chapter and to use revenue available to the
369 911 Board under Section 11-98-5 for administrative expenses to
370 pay its obligations under the contracts ~~and agreements~~.

371 ~~(6) To accept gifts, grants, or other money for the 911~~
372 ~~Fund.~~

373 ~~(7)~~ (5) To undertake its duties in a manner that is
374 competitively and technologically neutral as to all voice
375 communications service providers.

376 ~~(8)~~ (6) To administer the deployment and operation of a
377 statewide 911 voice and data system that ~~utilizes~~ uses emerging
378 communication technologies that are capable of connecting to a
379 911 system and delivering 911 and emergency information to
380 districts. The board shall use its available revenue to pay
381 obligations under the contracts and agreements for a statewide
382 911 voice and data system.

383 ~~(9)~~ (7) To the extent funds are available to cover all
384 costs, ~~To~~ establish a ~~certification~~ program to train and
385 certify public safety telecommunicators employed by a primary
386 PSAP receiving 911 calls, The board shall ~~including~~
387 ~~establishing~~ establish minimum core competency topics and
388 minimum number of training hours, ~~deciding~~ decide whether a
389 written examination is required, and ~~establishing~~ establish any
390 necessary certification requirements, ~~to the extent funds are~~
391 ~~available to cover all costs for the training established by~~
392 ~~the board.~~ The board may establish rules ~~for enforcement of~~ to



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393 enforce this subdivision as it concerns those PSAPs that fail
394 to participate in the certification program. Notwithstanding
395 the foregoing, the training and certification requirements of
396 this ~~section~~subdivision shall not apply to any public safety
397 telecommunicator employed by the state or an agency or
398 department thereof.

399 ~~(10) (8) To adopt rules in accordance with the~~
400 ~~Administrative Procedure Act to implement this chapter; to~~
401 establish the statewide 911 charge; and, in response to
402 technological changes, apply, collect, and remit the statewide
403 911 charge, without duplication, to the active service
404 connections of other originating service providers that are
405 technically capable of accessing a 911 system, subject to the
406 provisions applicable to voice communications service
407 providers under this chapter.

408 (9) Consistent with Chapter 27A of Title 41, to
409 exercise responsibility and control over the implementation,
410 use, and maintenance of geographic information system (GIS)
411 data for the statewide E-911 system. The board shall ensure
412 timely submission of accurate GIS data from communication
413 districts and other political subdivisions; reconcile
414 conflicting data; develop and implement protocols for
415 real-time auditing or monitoring of GIS data accuracy and
416 quality; ensure that all PSAPs comply with Next Generation 911
417 (NG911) services for location, accuracy, and routing; and
418 allocate funding and set operational policies for GIS data as
419 necessary to serve the effective delivery of NG911 services.

420 ~~(11)~~ (10) To take other necessary and proper action,



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421 including the adoption of rules in accordance with the APA, to
422 implement this chapter."

423 Section 3. This act shall become effective on October
424 1, 2026.