

**HB97 ENGROSSED**



1 HB97  
2 V7SZQLL-2  
3 By Representative Pringle  
4 RFD: State Government  
5 First Read: 13-Jan-26  
6 PFD: 17-Dec-25



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A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

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



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

35 (2) Because public agencies expend considerable  
36 resources collecting and managing geographic information in  
37 diverse formats and scales, it is necessary to require  
38 coordination and direction in the development and  
39 implementation of GIS to continually improve the delivery of  
40 public services, to reduce redundancy and duplication of  
41 effort, and to prevent the spread of erroneous geographic  
42 information in activities that demand urgency such as  
43 emergency response.

44 (3) The management and coordination of GIS is currently  
45 entrusted to the Alabama Geographic Information Executive  
46 Council, the Alabama Geographic Information Program Office,  
47 and the Advisory Committee, all created by executive order.

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

53 (5) The Legislature wishes to enable formal  
54 coordination between the Alabama Geographic Information  
55 Program Office, as the operating arm of the Alabama Geographic  
56 Information Executive Council, and the 911 Board, while



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57 maintaining the boundaries of their authorized duties and  
58 functions.

59 §41-27A-2

60 (a) The Alabama Geographic Information Executive  
61 Council (Executive Council) is established as an independent  
62 council to develop policies regarding the use of geographic  
63 information, geographic information systems (GIS), and other  
64 related technologies, to include all of the following  
65 responsibilities:

66 (1) Strategic planning for a sustainable state program  
67 for GIS.

68 (2) Resolution of policy and technology issues.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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- 85           (b) (1) The membership of the Executive Council shall  
86 consist of all of the following, or their designees:
- 87           a. The Commissioner of the Alabama Department of  
88 Agriculture and Industries.
- 89           b. The Commissioner of the Alabama Department of  
90 Conservation and Natural Resources.
- 91           c. The Commissioner of the Department of Revenue.
- 92           d. The Director of the Department of Economic and  
93 Community Affairs.
- 94           e. The Director of the Alabama Department of  
95 Environmental Management.
- 96           f. The Executive Director of the 911 Board.
- 97           g. The Director of the Alabama Criminal Justice  
98 Information Center.
- 99           h. The Director of the Department of Finance.
- 100           i. The Director of the Alabama Department of Workforce.
- 101           j. The Director of the Department of Public Safety.
- 102           k. The Director of the State Department of  
103 Transportation.
- 104           l. The Director of the Alabama Emergency Management  
105 Agency.
- 106           m. The Secretary of the Alabama State Law Enforcement  
107 Agency.
- 108           n. The Secretary of the State Office of Information  
109 Technology.
- 110           o. The State Geologist & Oil and Gas Supervisor of the  
111 Geological Survey of Alabama.
- 112           p. The Director of the Association of County



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113 Commissions of Alabama.

114           q. The Director of the Alabama League of  
115 Municipalities.

116           r. Any additional member appointed by the Governor.

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

121           (3) Members shall serve terms that coincide with their  
122 respective offices or appointments. No individual shall  
123 continue to serve on the Executive Council when he or she, or  
124 if applicable, the designating officer, no longer serves in  
125 the office to which he or she was elected or appointed.

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

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

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

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

138           §41-27A-3

139           (a) The Alabama Geographic Information Program Office  
140 (GIS Office) is established to be the operating arm of the



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141 Executive Council. Except as provided in Section 41-27A-5, the  
142 GIS Office shall be the sole instrumentality of the state for  
143 coordination of geographic information, GIS, and other  
144 geospatial-related technologies by all state departments and  
145 agencies or state-funded entities.

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

149 (c) (1) The GIS Office shall be managed by a director,  
150 who shall be the Geographic Information Officer (GIO), who  
151 shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Alabama State Law  
152 Enforcement Agency and employed in the classified service of  
153 the Merit System.

154 (2) The GIO shall be assisted by a deputy, who shall be  
155 appointed by the Secretary of the Alabama State Law  
156 Enforcement Agency and employed in the classified service of  
157 the Merit System.

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

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

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

168 (2) Maintain a master index of all geographic



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169 information maintained by any political subdivision of the  
170 state or other state-funded entity.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

196 §41-27A-4



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

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

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

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

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

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

211 (c) The GIO shall select advisory committee members who  
212 shall serve at the pleasure of the GIO. The GIO shall ensure  
213 that the committee has a statewide representation of  
214 stakeholders who are familiar with water resources, air  
215 resources, agricultural resources, energy resources, cultural  
216 resources, land resources, mineral resources, environmental  
217 management, forestry, geology, health, local government,  
218 planning, public safety, criminal justice, social services,  
219 transportation, utilities, waste management, homeland  
220 security, and wildlife management.

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

224 §41-27A-5



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

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

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

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

247 "§11-98-4.1

248 (a) There is created a statewide 911 Board. The board  
249 shall be comprised of 13 members. All appointing authorities  
250 shall coordinate their appointments to assure the board  
251 membership is inclusive and reflects the racial, gender,  
252 geographic, urban, rural, and economic diversity of the state.



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253 The 911 Board shall be created effective July 1, 2012, and  
254 until the effective date of the statewide 911 charge pursuant  
255 to Section 11-98-5, with cooperation of the CMRS Board, shall  
256 plan for the implementation of the statewide 911 charge and  
257 the distribution of the revenues as provided ~~herein~~ in this  
258 chapter. The reasonable administrative expenses incurred by  
259 the 911 Board prior to the implementation of the statewide 911  
260 charge may be deducted from the existing CMRS Fund. Upon the  
261 effective date of the new statewide 911 charge, the 911 Board  
262 shall replace and supersede the CMRS Board formerly created  
263 pursuant to this chapter, and the CMRS Fund shall be  
264 incorporated into, and considered part of, the 911 Fund.

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

268 (1) Seven members recommended by the Alabama  
269 Association of 911 Districts, one from each of the seven  
270 congressional districts, with each recommended district  
271 representative ~~recommended~~ selected by vote of the Alabama  
272 Association of 911 Districts members from that congressional  
273 district. The initial appointments shall include the three  
274 district representatives on the CMRS Board who shall serve  
275 through March 31, 2014, and a member from the first, third,  
276 fifth, and seventh congressional districts as provided  
277 ~~herein~~ in this section. Following the March 31, 2014,  
278 expiration of the terms of the district representatives drawn  
279 from the CMRS Board, the Governor shall appoint a member  
280 recommended by the Association of 911 Districts from each of



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281 the second, fourth, and sixth congressional districts, it  
282 being the intent of this section that each of the seven  
283 district representatives on the board be from a different  
284 congressional district, as such districts exist on May 8,  
285 2012.

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

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

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

294 (c) For purposes of the initial board appointments, ~~7~~:  
295 ~~(1)(i)~~ five members of the board shall be appointed for a  
296 four-year term; ~~(2)(ii)~~ four members for a three-year term;  
297 ~~(3)(iii)~~ the three members of the CMRS Board who are appointed  
298 pursuant to subdivision (b)(1) to terms ending on March 31,  
299 2014; and ~~(4)(iv)~~ the remaining member for a two-year term.  
300 Thereafter, board members shall serve staggered terms of four  
301 years. In the event of a vacancy, the vacancy shall be filled  
302 for the balance of the unexpired term in the same manner as  
303 the original appointment. Any vacancy occurring on the 911  
304 Board, whether for an expired or unexpired term, shall be  
305 filled by appointment as soon as practicable after the vacancy  
306 occurs, whether for an expired or unexpired term.

307 (d) For all terms expiring after June 1, 2014, the  
308 governmental entities or industry groups identified in



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309 subsection (b) shall recommend at least two different  
310 individuals for each board position for which they are charged  
311 with making a recommendation, with the Governor appointing a  
312 member from among ~~such~~the recommended candidates. For all  
313 terms expiring after July 1, 2015, appointments made by the  
314 Governor shall be subject to confirmation by the Senate as  
315 provided in this subsection. Appointments made at times when  
316 the Senate is not in session shall be effective immediately ad  
317 interim and shall serve until the Senate acts on the  
318 appointment as provided herein. Any appointment made while the  
319 Senate is not in session shall be submitted to the Senate not  
320 later than the third legislative day following the reconvening  
321 of the Legislature. ~~In the event~~If the Senate fails or refuses  
322 to act on the appointment, the individual whose name was  
323 submitted shall continue to serve until action is taken on the  
324 appointment by the Senate.

325 (e) The statewide 911 Board shall have the following  
326 powers and duties:

327 (1) To develop and publish a 911 Annual Report. In  
328 fulfilling this duty, the 911 Board shall monitor trends in  
329 voice communications service technology and in enhanced 911  
330 service technology, investigate, and incorporate Geographical  
331 Information Systems (GIS) mapping and other resources into the  
332 report, and include recommended strategies for the efficient  
333 and effective delivery of enhanced 911 service. In addition,  
334 the board shall study the rates charged for 911 services and  
335 make adjustments to the rates as provided in this chapter;  
336 recommend any statutory changes necessary to ensure the most



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337 efficient and effective delivery of 911 services in Alabama  
338 over both the ~~long-~~long-term and short-term; and provide a  
339 copy of its 911 Annual Report to members of the boards of the  
340 districts in the state through the Alabama Association of 911  
341 Districts.

342 (2) To administer the 911 Fund and the monthly  
343 statewide 911 charge authorized by Section 11-98-5-

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

347 ~~(4)(3) To establish policies and procedures, adopted in~~  
348 ~~accordance with the Alabama Administrative Procedure Act, to~~  
349 fund for the funding of advisory services, grants, and  
350 training for districts; and to provide funds ~~in accordance~~  
351 ~~with these policies and procedures~~ to the extent funds are  
352 available.

353 ~~(5)(4) To make and enter into contracts and agreements~~  
354 necessary or incidental to the performance of its powers and  
355 duties under this chapter and to use revenue available to the  
356 911 Board under Section 11-98-5 for administrative expenses to  
357 pay its obligations under the ~~contracts and agreements~~.

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

360 ~~(7)(5) To undertake its duties in a manner that is~~  
361 competitively and technologically neutral as to all voice  
362 communications service providers.

363 ~~(8)(6) To administer the deployment and operation of a~~  
364 statewide 911 voice and data system that ~~utilizes~~uses emerging



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365 communication technologies that are capable of connecting to a  
366 911 system and delivering 911 and emergency information to  
367 districts. The board shall use its available revenue to pay  
368 obligations under the contracts and agreements for a statewide  
369 911 voice and data system.

370 ~~(9)~~ (7) To the extent funds are available to cover all  
371 costs, ~~To~~ establish a ~~certification~~ program to train and  
372 certify public safety telecommunicators employed by a primary  
373 PSAP receiving 911 calls~~7~~. The board shall including  
374 ~~establishing~~ establish minimum core competency topics and  
375 minimum number of training hours, ~~deciding~~ decide whether a  
376 written examination is required, and ~~establishing~~ establish any  
377 necessary certification requirements, ~~to the extent funds are~~  
378 ~~available to cover all costs for the training established by~~  
379 ~~the board~~. The board may establish rules ~~for enforcement of~~ to  
380 enforce this subdivision as it concerns those PSAPs that fail  
381 to participate in the certification program. Notwithstanding  
382 the foregoing, the training and certification requirements of  
383 this ~~section~~ subdivision shall not apply to any public safety  
384 telecommunicator employed by the state or an agency or  
385 department thereof.

386 ~~(10)~~ (8) ~~To adopt rules in accordance with the~~  
387 ~~Administrative Procedure Act to implement this chapter; to~~  
388 establish the statewide 911 charge; and, in response to  
389 technological changes, apply, collect, and remit the statewide  
390 911 charge, without duplication, to the active service  
391 connections of other originating service providers that are  
392 technically capable of accessing a 911 system, subject to the



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393 provisions applicable to voice communications service  
394 providers under this chapter.

395 (9) Consistent with Chapter 27A of Title 41, to  
396 exercise responsibility and control over the implementation,  
397 use, and maintenance of geographic information system (GIS)  
398 data for the statewide E-911 system. The board shall ensure  
399 timely submission of accurate GIS data from communication  
400 districts and other political subdivisions; reconcile  
401 conflicting data; develop and implement protocols for  
402 real-time auditing or monitoring of GIS data accuracy and  
403 quality; ensure that all PSAPs comply with Next Generation 911  
404 (NG911) services for location, accuracy, and routing; and  
405 allocate funding and set operational policies for GIS data as  
406 necessary to serve the effective delivery of NG911 services.

407 ~~(11)~~(10) To take other necessary and proper action,  
408 including the adoption of rules in accordance with the APA, to  
409 implement this chapter."

410 Section 3. This act shall become effective on October  
411 1, 2026.



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### House of Representatives

415 Read for the first time and referred .....13-Jan-26  
416 to the House of Representatives  
417 committee on State Government  
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419 Read for the second time and placed .....25-Feb-26  
420 on the calendar:  
421 1 amendment  
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423 Read for the third time and passed .....03-Mar-26  
424 as amended  
425 Yays 104  
426 Nays 0  
427 Abstains 0

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John Treadwell  
Clerk