

By: Senator(s) Dearing

To: Environment Prot,
Cons and Water Res

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 2860

1 AN ACT TO CREATE THE STATEWIDE SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION
2 MANAGEMENT SYSTEM COORDINATING COUNCIL; TO SPECIFY THE MEMBERSHIP
3 OF THE COUNCIL AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE
4 COUNCIL; TO REQUIRE THE COORDINATING COUNCIL TO DEVELOP AND
5 PREPARE A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF
6 A STATEWIDE SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND TO
7 PROVIDE FOR THE MINIMUM CONTENTS OF THAT PLAN; TO REQUIRE THE
8 DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION TO SERVE AS COORDINATOR
9 FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

11 SECTION 1. This act shall be know and may be cited as the
12 "Statewide Scientific Information Management Act of 1999".

13 SECTION 2. (1) The Legislature finds that:

14 (a) Numerous federal and state agencies collect and
15 manage scientific information relating to the environment and
16 natural resources of the state;

17 (b) Scientific information is a strategic asset in the
18 management of our natural resources, exploration for oil and gas
19 and economic development activities; and

20 (c) Lack of coordination in the collection and
21 management of scientific information can lead to duplication of
22 efforts and inefficient information management thus leading to
23 increased and unnecessary costs.

24 (2) The purpose of this act is to establish a statewide
25 coordinated effort to provide for the management of scientific
26 information to ensure the effective and efficient collection,
27 management, dissemination, and analysis of scientific information
28 available to the state and to provide that information in a
29 user-friendly format to governmental agencies, academic

30 institutions, other public and private organizations and the
31 general public for economic development, natural resources and
32 environmental management and other purposes.

33 SECTION 3. For purposes of this act, the following terms
34 shall have the meaning ascribed herein unless the context clearly
35 indicates otherwise:

36 (a) "Scientific information" means information
37 associated with the monitoring and management of the environment
38 and natural resources of a specifically targeted geographic area
39 that is collected, analyzed, managed, updated by and used among
40 agencies, departments, associations and other organizations
41 concerned with or responsible for the geographic area.

42 (b) "Scientific information management system" means a
43 management system which would allow scientific information to be
44 collected, processed, analyzed, managed, updated and subsequently
45 accessed by users of that information.

46 SECTION 4. (1) There is created the Mississippi Statewide
47 Scientific Information Management System Coordinating Council,
48 hereinafter referred to as "coordinating council," for the purpose
49 of developing a strategic plan for a statewide scientific
50 information management system and serving as a coordinating entity
51 for all aspects of scientific information management.

52 (2) (a) The council shall consist of the following members:
53 the Executive Director of the Department of Environmental
54 Quality; the Executive Director of the Department of Economic and
55 Community Development; the Executive Director of the Department of
56 Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks; the Executive Director of the
57 Department of Marine Resources; the State Health Officer; the
58 Executive Director of the Department of Transportation; the
59 Chairman of the Mississippi Water Resources Advisory Council; the
60 Vice-President for Research and Sponsored Programs at each
61 university on the Mississippi Research Consortium; the State
62 Director of Technology Transfer; the Center Director of the
63 National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Stennis Space
64 Center; the Executive Director of the Mississippi Automated
65 Resource Information System; and two (2) representatives of the
66 private sector user community appointed by the Governor.

67 Members of the coordinating council not appointed by the
68 Governor shall serve a term concurrent with their term of office
69 in their respective position. Nonappointed members may designate
70 an alternate to serve in their stead and the alternate shall have
71 the authority to act for the designating member.

72 Members of the council appointed by the Governor shall serve
73 four-year terms.

74 (b) In addition to the members of the coordinating
75 council specified in paragraph (a) of this subsection, the
76 coordinating council may invite, as participating members,
77 representative of any other state and federal organizations, or
78 individuals possessing appropriate expertise or who have a viable
79 interest in the development and implementation of the statewide
80 scientific information management system.

81 (c) Original appointments to the coordinating council
82 shall be made no later than October 1, 1999. The Governor shall
83 require adequate disclosure of potential conflicts of interest by
84 appointed members of the coordinating council. Vacancies on the
85 coordinating council shall be filled by appointment in the same
86 manner as the original appointments.

87 (d) The coordinating council shall elect from its
88 membership a chairperson to preside over meetings and
89 vice-chairperson to preside in the absence fo the chairperson or
90 when the chairperson shall be excused. The coordinating council
91 shall adopt procedures governing the manner of conducting its
92 business. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum to
93 do business.

94 (e) Members of the coordinating council shall serve
95 without compensation. At the direction of the chairman of the
96 coordinating council and contingent upon the availability of
97 sufficient funds, each member may receive reimbursement for
98 reasonable expenses, including travel expenses in accordance with
99 rates established pursuant to Section 25-3-41, Mississippi Code of

100 1972, incurred in attending meetings of the coordinating council.

101 (3) The coordinating council shall convene before November
102 15, 1999.

103 (4) The coordinating council shall not employ any permanent
104 staff, rent or occupy independent office space or otherwise
105 establish a full-time office.

106 (5) In conducting its activities under this act, the
107 coordinating council may elicit the support of and participation
108 by any state or local governmental agency as may be necessary or
109 appropriate. All state and local governmental agencies shall
110 provide support or participation as requested.

111 (6) The coordinating council may exercise those duties and
112 powers necessary to carry out the purposes of this act, including,
113 but not limited to, the following functions:

114 (a) Conduct, or cause to be conducted any studies,
115 analyses or evaluations related to the development and
116 implementation of a scientific information management system;

117 (b) Apply and contract for and accept any grants,
118 public or private funds, gifts or proceeds in furtherance of the
119 activities of the coordinating council;

120 (c) Authorize the Executive Director of the Department
121 of Finance and Administration to enter into all contracts or
122 execute all instruments, on behalf of the coordinating council,
123 and do all acts necessary, desirable or convenient to carry out
124 any power expressly granted to the council in this chapter.

125 (d) Expend or distribute any funds or assets in its
126 custody or under its control appropriate in carrying out the
127 purposes of this act.

128 SECTION 5. (1) Before November 15, 2000, the Mississippi
129 Scientific Information Management System Coordinating Council
130 shall develop and prepare a strategic plan for the development and
131 implementation of a statewide scientific information management
132 system.

133 (2) The strategic plan shall include, but not be limited to,
134 the following:

135 (a) A detailed analysis of the sources, types, amounts
136 and methods by which scientific information is currently collected
137 in the state and of methods or systems currently used to manage
138 that scientific information;

139 (b) An identification of the current costs of
140 collection, management, analysis, updating, use and dissemination
141 of scientific information in the state with particular emphasis on
142 costs to state agencies;

143 (c) A description of current efforts by agencies and
144 organizations collecting scientific information to provide broad
145 access to that information;

146 (d) An identification of planned scientific information
147 management programs and needs and an evaluation of how those
148 planned programs or needs may be met or integrated into the
149 statewide scientific information management system;

150 (e) A clearly-defined, comprehensive statement of the
151 mission, goals and objectives of the statewide scientific
152 information management system;

153 (f) A detailed analysis of the benefits and
154 capabilities of a statewide scientific information management
155 system;

156 (g) A plan for the development and implementation of a
157 statewide scientific information management system in a phased
158 manner;

159 (h) A timeline for the development and implementation
160 of a statewide scientific information management system;

161 (i) A detailed analysis and estimate of the costs for
162 development and implementation of the statewide scientific
163 information management system and a recommended method for funding
164 the development and implementation of the system; and

165 (j) Any other information the coordinating council

166 deems appropriate.

167 (3) In addition, the strategic plan shall recommend
168 appropriate policies and standards for use in management of
169 scientific information and for providing access to that
170 information. The strategic plan shall also address information
171 accuracy and quality issues, ease of access issues, training and
172 technical support issues and interagency coordination issues.

173 (4) Upon completion of the strategic plan, the coordinating
174 council shall provide copies to the Governor, the Lieutenant
175 Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the
176 Chairmen of the Senate Environmental Protection, Conservation and
177 Water Resources Committee and the Senate Appropriations Committee,
178 the Chairmen of the House Conservation and Water Resources
179 Committee and the House Appropriations Committee, the Legislative
180 Budget Office, the Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review
181 Committee, the Executive Director of the Department of Finance and
182 Administration and the Legislative Reference Bureau.

183 SECTION 6. The Department of Finance and Administration
184 shall serve as the coordinator for implementation of this act.
185 The Department of Finance and Administration shall provide any
186 technical and other support services and personnel as the
187 Mississippi Scientific Information Management System Coordinating
188 Council may require in the performance of its functions. The
189 Department of Finance and Administration shall administer any
190 funds made available to the coordinating council for its use and
191 shall at the request and on behalf of the coordinating council,
192 contract for services using any funds available to the
193 coordinating council.

194 SECTION 7. Sections 1 through 6 of this act shall be
195 codified as a new chapter in Title 49.

196 SECTION 8. This act shall take effect and be in force from
197 and after July 1, 1999.