By: Representatives Brown, Morris

To: Conservation and Water Resources

HOUSE BILL NO. 861

- AN ACT TO CREATE THE MISSISSIPPI COORDINATING COUNCIL FOR REMOTE SENSING AND GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS; TO AMEND 3 SECTION 25-53-5, TO ASSIGN ADDITIONAL DUTIES TO THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES; TO AMEND SECTION 49-2-9, ASSIGN ADDITIONAL DUTIES TO THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY OFFICE OF GEOLOGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES; TO 6 BRING FORWARD SECTION 25-58-1 AND 25-58-3, WHICH AUTHORIZE THE BOARDS OF SUPERVISORS TO CREATE GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS; 7
- 8
- 9 AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.
- BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI: 10
- 11 SECTION 1. (1) There is established the Mississippi
- Coordinating Council for Remote Sensing and Geographic Information 12
- Systems, hereinafter referred to as the "council." The council 13
- shall set and assure enforcement of policies and standards to make 14
- 15 it easier for remote sensing and geographic information system
- 16 users around the state to share information and to facilitate
- cost-sharing arrangements to reduce the costs of acquiring remote 17
- sensing and geographic information system data. The council's 18
- responsibilities include, but are not limited to: 19
- (a) Coordination of remote sensing and geographic 20
- 21 information system activities within Mississippi;
- 22 Establishing policies and standards to guide
- Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services (MDITS) 23
- 24 in the review and approval of state and local government
- procurement of both hardware and software development relate to 25
- remote sensing and geographic information system; 26
- (c) Oversight of MDITS' implementation of these 27
- responsibilities; 28
- 29 Preparing a plan, with proposed state funding
- priorities, for Mississippi's remote sensing and geographic 30

- 31 information system activities, including development, operation
- 32 and maintenance of the Mississippi Digital Earth Model;
- 33 (e) Oversight of the Mississippi Department of
- 34 Environmental Quality's development and maintenance of the
- 35 Mississippi Digital Earth Model, including establishing the order
- in which the seven (7) core data layers shall be developed;
- 37 (f) Designating Mississippi's official representative
- 38 to the National States Geographic Information Council and to any
- 39 other national or regional remote sensing or geographical
- 40 information system organizations on which Mississippi has an
- 41 official seat;
- 42 (g) Establishing and designating the members of an
- 43 advisory committee made up of policy level officials from major
- 44 state, local, regional and federal agencies, as well as members of
- 45 the private sector;
- 46 (h) Creating a staff level technical users committee,
- 47 which any public or private sector entity in Mississippi
- 48 interested in remote sensing and geographic information may be
- 49 allowed to participate;
- 50 (i) Coordinate with the State Tax Commission to assure
- 51 that state and local governmental entities do not have to comply
- 52 with two (2) sets of requirements imposed by different
- 53 organizations;
- 54 (2) The Mississippi Coordinating Council for Remote Sensing
- 55 and Geographic Information Systems will be composed of the
- 56 following members:
- 57 (a) The Executive Director of the Mississippi
- 58 Department of Environmental Quality;
- 59 (b) The Executive Director of the Mississippi
- 60 Department of Information Technology Services;
- 61 (c) The Executive Director of the Mississippi
- 62 Department of Transportation;

- (d) The Executive Director of the Mississippi Emergency
- 64 Management Agency;
- (e) The Executive Director of Mississippi Development
- 66 Authority;
- (f) The Secretary of State;
- (g) The chairman of the State Tax Commission;
- (h) A representative from the Mississippi Institute for
- 70 Forestry Inventory, appointed by the Governor;
- 71 (i) A representative from Mississippi Automated
- 72 Resource Information System, appointed by the Governor;
- 73 (j) A representative from the Institutions of Higher
- 74 Learning, appointed by the Governor;
- 75 (k) A mayor, appointed by the Executive Director of the
- 76 Mississippi Municipal League;
- 77 (1) The Executive Director of the Mississippi Municipal
- 78 League;
- 79 (m) A county supervisor, appointed by the Executive
- 80 Director of the Mississippi Association of Supervisors;
- 81 (n) The Executive Director of the Mississippi
- 82 Association of Supervisors;
- 83 (o) A member of the Tax Assessors/Collectors
- 84 Association, to be appointed by the president of that association;
- (p) A representative of the Planning and Development
- 86 Districts, appointed by the Governor;
- (q) Mississippi's representative to the National States
- 88 Geographic Information Council;
- 89 (r) A Senator, as a nonvoting member, appointed by the
- 90 Lieutenant Governor; and
- 91 (s) A Representative, as a nonvoting member, appointed
- 92 by the Speaker of the House.
- The members of the council shall serve for a term concurrent
- 94 with their service as an elected or appointed official or
- 95 concurrent with the term of the appointing official.

96 The Executive Director of the Department of Environmental

97 Quality shall serve as council chair and the Executive Director of

- 98 Information Technology Services as vicechair for the first two (2)
- 99 years. After the first two (2) years, the council shall elect
- 100 from its members a chair and vicechair, for terms to be specified
- 101 by the council.
- If any member is unable to attend any meeting of the council,
- 103 the member may not designate another person to attend or vote at
- 104 such meeting. A majority of the members of the council
- 105 constitutes a quorum. All members must be notified in writing of
- 106 all meetings, and such notices must be mailed at least five (5)
- 107 days before the date on which a meeting is to be held.
- 108 (3) Any member of the council who is also a state employee
- 109 may not receive per diem compensation for attending meetings of
- 110 the study committee, but may be reimbursed in accordance with
- 111 Section 25-3-41 for mileage and actual expenses incurred in the
- 112 performance of the duties, if authorized by vote, at a meeting of
- 113 the council, which action must be recorded in the official minutes
- 114 of the meeting. Legislative members of the council will be paid
- 115 from the contingent expense funds of their respective houses in
- 116 the same amounts as provided for committee meetings when the
- 117 Legislature is not in session.
- 118 (4) The council may accept money from any source, public or
- 119 private, to be expended in implementing the duties under this act.
- 120 (5) The council may utilize staff employed by the agencies
- 121 affected by this act and any other assistance made available to
- 122 it.
- 123 **SECTION 2.** Section 25-53-5, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 124 amended as follows:
- 125 25-53-5. The authority shall have the following powers,
- 126 duties, and responsibilities:
- 127 (a) The authority shall provide for the development of
- 128 plans for the efficient acquisition and utilization of computer

equipment and services by all agencies of state government, and
provide for their implementation. In so doing, the authority may
use the MDITS staff, at the discretion of the executive director
of the authority, or the authority may contract for the services
of qualified consulting firms in the field of information
technology and utilize the service of such consultants as may be
necessary for such purposes.

- (b) The authority shall immediately institute procedures for carrying out the purposes of this chapter and supervise the efficient execution of the powers and duties of the office of executive director of the authority. In the execution of its functions under this chapter, the authority shall maintain as a paramount consideration the successful internal organization and operation of the several agencies so that efficiency existing therein shall not be adversely affected or impaired. In executing its functions in relation to the institutions of higher learning and junior colleges in the state, the authority shall take into consideration the special needs of such institutions in relation to the fields of teaching and scientific research.
- (c) Title of whatever nature of all computer equipment now vested in any agency of the State of Mississippi is hereby vested in the authority, and no such equipment shall be disposed of in any manner except in accordance with the direction of the authority or under the provisions of such rules and regulations as may hereafter be adopted by the authority in relation thereto.
- The authority shall adopt rules, regulations, and procedures governing the acquisition of computer and telecommunications equipment and services which shall, to the fullest extent practicable, insure the maximum of competition between all manufacturers of supplies or equipment or services. In the writing of specifications, in the making of contracts relating to the acquisition of such equipment and services, and in the performance of its other duties the authority shall provide

for the maximum compatibility of all information systems hereafter installed or utilized by all state agencies and may require the use of common computer languages where necessary to accomplish the purposes of this chapter. The authority may establish by regulation and charge reasonable fees on a nondiscriminatory basis for the furnishing to bidders of copies of bid specifications and other documents issued by the authority.

- (e) The authority shall adopt rules and regulations governing the sharing with, or the sale or lease of information technology services to any nonstate agency or person. Such regulations shall provide that any such sharing, sale, or lease shall be restricted in that same shall be accomplished only where such services are not readily available otherwise within the state, and then only at a charge to the user not less than the prevailing rate of charge for similar services by private enterprise within this state.
- The authority may, in its discretion, establish a 178 (f) 179 special technical advisory committee or committees to study and make recommendations on technology matters within the competence 180 181 of the authority as the authority may see fit. Persons serving on 182 the Information Resource Council, its task forces, or any such 183 technical advisory committees shall be entitled to receive their actual and necessary expenses actually incurred in the performance 184 of such duties, together with mileage as provided by law for state 185 186 employees, provided the same has been authorized by a resolution duly adopted by the authority and entered on its minutes prior to 187 the performance of such duties. 188
 - (g) The authority may provide for the development and require the adoption of standardized computer programs and may provide for the dissemination of information to and the establishment of training programs for the personnel of the various information technology centers of state agencies and personnel of the agencies utilizing the services thereof.

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- The authority shall adopt reasonable rules and 195 196 regulations requiring the reporting to the authority through the office of executive director of such information as may be 197 198 required for carrying out the purposes of this chapter and may 199 also establish such reasonable procedures to be followed in the presentation of bills for payment under the terms of all contracts 200 for the acquisition of computer equipment and services now or 201 202 hereafter in force as may be required by the authority or by the executive director in the execution of their powers and duties. 203
- (i) The authority shall require such adequate
 documentation of information technology procedures utilized by the
 various state agencies and may require the establishment of such
 organizational structures within state agencies relating to
 information technology operations as may be necessary to
 effectuate the purposes of this chapter.
 - The authority may adopt such further reasonable (i) rules and regulations as may be necessary to fully implement the purposes of this chapter. All rules and regulations adopted by the authority shall be published and disseminated in readily accessible form to all affected state agencies, and to all current suppliers of computer equipment and services to the state, and to all prospective suppliers requesting the same. Such rules and regulations shall be kept current, be periodically revised, and copies thereof shall be available at all times for inspection by the public at reasonable hours in the offices of the authority. Whenever possible no rule, regulation or any proposed amendment to such rules and regulations shall be finally adopted or enforced until copies of said proposed rules and regulations have been furnished to all interested parties for their comment and suggestions.
- 225 (k) The authority shall establish rules and regulations
 226 which shall provide for the submission of all contracts proposed
 227 to be executed by the executive director for computer equipment or
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services to the authority for approval before final execution, and
the authority may provide that such contracts involving the
expenditure of less than such specified amount as may be
established by the authority may be finally executed by the
executive director without first obtaining such approval by the
authority.

- (1) The authority is authorized to purchase, lease, or rent computer equipment or services and to operate said equipment and utilize said services in providing services to one or more state agencies when in its opinion such operation will provide maximum efficiency and economy in the functions of any such agency or agencies.
- 240 (m) The authority shall assist political subdivisions
 241 and instrumentalities in their development of plans for the
 242 efficient acquisition and utilization of computer equipment and
 243 services. An appropriate fee shall be charged the political
 244 subdivision by the authority for such assistance.
 - The authority shall adopt rules and regulations governing the protest procedures to be followed by any actual or prospective bidder, offerer or contractor who is aggrieved in connection with the solicitation or award of a contract for the acquisition of computer equipment or services. Such rules and regulations shall prescribe the manner, time and procedure for making protests and may provide that a protest not timely filed shall be summarily denied. The authority may require the protesting party, at the time of filing the protest, to post a bond, payable to the state, in an amount that the authority determines sufficient to cover any expense or loss incurred by the state, the authority or any state agency as a result of the protest if the protest subsequently is determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to have been filed without any substantial basis or reasonable expectation to believe that the protest was meritorious; however, in no event may the amount of the bond

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261 required exceed a reasonable estimate of the total project cost.

262 The authority, in its discretion, also may prohibit any

263 prospective bidder, offerer or contractor who is a party to any

264 litigation involving any such contract with the state, the

265 authority or any agency of the state to participate in any other

266 such bid, offer or contract, or to be awarded any such contract,

267 during the pendency of the litigation.

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(o) The authority shall make a report in writing to the Legislature each year in the month of January. Such report shall contain a full and detailed account of the work of the authority

271 for the preceding year as specified in Section 25-53-29(3).

All acquisitions of computer equipment and services involving the expenditure of funds in excess of the dollar amount established in Section 31-7-13(c), or rentals or leases in excess of the dollar amount established in Section 31-7-13(c) for the term of the contract, shall be based upon competitive and open

277 specifications, and contracts therefor shall be entered into only

after advertisements for bids are published in one or more daily

newspapers having a general circulation in the state not less than

fourteen (14) days prior to receiving sealed bids therefor. The

281 authority may reserve the right to reject any or all bids, and if

282 all bids are rejected, the authority may negotiate a contract

283 within the limitations of the specifications so long as the terms

284 of any such negotiated contract are equal to or better than the

285 comparable terms submitted by the lowest and best bidder, and so

286 long as the total cost to the State of Mississippi does not exceed

287 the lowest bid. If the authority accepts one (1) of such bids, it

288 shall be that which is the lowest and best.

(p) When applicable, the authority may procure

290 equipment, systems and related services in accordance with the law

291 or regulations, or both, which govern the Bureau of Purchasing of

292 the Office of General Services or which govern the Mississippi

- Department of Information Technology Services procurement of telecommunications equipment, software and services.
- 295 (q) The authority is authorized to purchase, lease, or
- 296 rent information technology and services for the purpose of
- 297 establishing pilot projects to investigate emerging technologies.
- 298 These acquisitions shall be limited to new technologies and shall
- 299 be limited to an amount set by annual appropriation of the
- 300 Legislature. These acquisitions shall be exempt from the
- 301 advertising and bidding requirement.
- 302 (r) All fees collected by the Mississippi Department of
- 303 Information Technology Services shall be deposited into the
- 304 Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services
- 305 Revolving Fund unless otherwise specified by the Legislature.
- 306 (s) The authority is responsible for reviewing and
- 307 approving state and local government procurement of both hardware
- 308 and software development related to remote sensing and geographic
- 309 information systems. In addition, the authority is responsible
- 310 for development, operation and maintenance of a delivery system
- 311 infrastructure for geographic information systems data. The
- 312 authority shall provide a warehouse for Mississippi's geographic
- 313 information systems data.
- 314 **SECTION 3.** Section 49-2-9, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
- 315 amended as follows:
- 316 49-2-9. (1) Effective July 1, 1979, the commission shall
- 317 have the following powers and duties:
- 318 (a) To formulate the policy of the department regarding
- 319 natural resources within the jurisdiction of the department;
- 320 (b) To adopt, modify, repeal, and promulgate, after due
- 321 notice and hearing, and where not otherwise prohibited by federal
- 322 or state law, to make exceptions to and grant exemptions and

- 323 variances from, and to enforce rules and regulations implementing
- 324 or effectuating the powers and duties of the commission under any
- 325 and all statutes within the commission's jurisdiction, and as the

326 commission may deem necessary to prevent, control and abate 327 existing or potential pollution;

- 328 (c) To apply for, receive and expend any federal or 329 state funds or contributions, gifts, devises, bequests or funds 330 from any other source;
- 331 (d) To commission or conduct studies designed to 332 determine alternative methods of managing or using the natural 333 resources of this state, in a manner to insure efficiency and 334 maximum productivity;
 - To enter into, and to authorize the executive (e) director to execute with the approval of the commission, contracts, grants and cooperative agreements with any federal or state agency or subdivision thereof, or any public or private institution located inside or outside the State of Mississippi, or any person, corporation or association in connection with carrying out the provisions of this chapter; but this authority under this chapter and under any and all statutes within the commission's jurisdiction, except those statutes relating to the Bureau of Recreation and Parks, shall not include contracts, grants or cooperative agreements which do not develop data or information usable by the commission, or which provide goods, services or facilities to the commission or any of its bureaus, and shall exclude any monies for special interest groups for purposes of lobbying or otherwise promoting their special interests; and
- 350 (f) To discharge such other duties, responsibilities 351 and powers as are necessary to implement the provisions of this 352 chapter.
- 353 (2) The Office of Geology and Energy Resources is

 responsible for program management, development and maintenance of

 the Mississippi Digital Earth Model, which should include the

 following seven (7) core data layers of a digital land base

 computer model of the State of Mississippi:
 - (a) Geodetic control;

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359	(b) Elevation and bathymetry;
360	(c) Orthoimagery;
361	(d) Hydrography;
362	(e) Transportation;
363	(f) Government boundaries; and
364	(g) Cadastral.
365	For all seven (7) framework layers, the Office of Geology and
366	Energy Resources will be the integrator of data from all sources
367	and the guarantor of data completeness and consistency.
368	SECTION 4. Section 25-58-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
369	brought forward as follows:
370	25-58-1. (1) For the purposes of this section, the
371	following words shall have the meanings ascribed herein unless the
372	context clearly requires otherwise:
373	(a) "Geographic information system" means a
374	computerized, spatial coordinate mapping and relational data base
375	technology which (i) captures, assembles, stores, converts,
376	manages, analyzes, amalgamates and records, in the digital mode,
377	all kinds and types of information and data; (ii) transforms such
378	information and data into intelligence; and subsequently (iii)
379	retrieves, presents and distributes that intelligence to a user
380	for use in making the intelligent decisions necessary for sound
381	management of private or political affairs.
382	(b) "Data base" means a collection of available
383	information and data assembled into electronic files for efficient
384	and timely management of county and municipal affairs and
385	functions and the exercise of the powers, duties and
386	responsibilities placed upon the governing authorities of a county
387	or municipality by Mississippi law and the Mississippi
388	Constitution.
389	(c) "Multipurpose cadastre" means a uniformly accepted
390	base map registered to the Mississippi State Plane Coordinate

System and depicting boundaries of all public properties.

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- 392 (d) "Mississippi State Plane Coordinate System" means 393 the system of plane rectangular coordinates established by the 394 National Geodetic Survey which system is further identified as 395 North American Datum (NAD) 1983.
 - (2) The board of supervisors of any county and the governing authorities of any municipality are hereby authorized and empowered, in their discretion, to do all things necessary and desirable to create a geographic information system for the county or municipality, as appropriate. Data bases for such a system shall be created under the direct supervision of persons who are experienced in and possess a demonstrated knowledge of the preparation of geographic information systems and of the data bases and the other requirements and activities related thereto.
 - (3) The board of supervisors of any county and the governing authorities of any municipality are further authorized and empowered, in their discretion, to prepare, or have prepared, a multipurpose cadastre registered to the accuracy standards promulgated by the Federal Geodetic Control Committee established under the provisions of the United States Office of Management and Budget Memoranda A-16.
- No geographic information system or multipurpose 412 (4)413 cadastre shall be contracted for, purchased, leased, or created by any county or municipality unless the county or municipality shall 414 first submit its plan for a geographic information system and 415 416 multipurpose cadastre to the Mississippi Central Data Processing Authority for its approval, and all bids or proposals for such a 417 418 geographic information system or multipurpose cadastre shall be submitted to and evaluated by the Mississippi Central Data 419 Processing Authority before any bid or proposal is accepted. 420 421 making its evaluation, the Mississippi Central Data Processing 422 Authority shall consider options available to the county or 423 municipality by reason of the existence of other publicly

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424 financed, owned, or operated geographic information systems or

425 multipurpose cadastres available to the county or municipality.

426 SECTION 5. Section 25-58-3, Mississippi Code of 1972, is

427 brought forward as follows:

- 428 25-58-3. (1) The board of supervisors of any county and the
- 429 governing authorities of any municipality (both referred to in
- 430 this section as "governing authority") are hereby authorized and
- 431 empowered, in their discretion, to borrow money, pursuant to the
- 432 provisions of this section to create the geographic information
- 433 system and prepare the multipurpose cadastre authorized in Section
- 434 25-58-1.
- 435 (2) Before any money is borrowed under the provisions of
- 436 this section, the governing authority shall adopt a resolution
- 437 declaring the necessity for such borrowing and specifying the
- 438 purpose for which the money borrowed is to be expended, the amount
- 439 to be borrowed, the date or dates of the maturity thereof, and how
- 440 such indebtedness is to be evidenced. The resolution shall be
- 441 certified over the signature of the head of the governing
- 442 authority.
- 443 (3) The borrowing shall be evidenced by negotiable notes or
- 444 certificates of indebtedness of the governing authority which
- 445 shall be signed by the principal officer and clerk of such
- 446 governing authority. All such notes or certificates of
- 447 indebtedness shall be offered at public sale by the governing
- 448 authority after not less than ten (10) days' advertising in a
- 449 newspaper having general circulation within the governing
- 450 authority. Each sale shall be made to the bidder offering the
- 451 lowest rate of interest or whose bid represents the lowest net
- 452 cost to the governing authority; however, the rate of interest
- 453 shall not exceed that now or hereafter authorized in Section
- 454 75-17-101, Mississippi Code of 1972. No such notes or
- 455 certificates of indebtedness shall be issued and sold for less
- 456 than par and accrued interest. All notes or certificates of

principal and interest over a period not to exceed ten (10) years 458 from the dates of the issuance thereof. Principal shall be 459 460 payable annually, and interest shall be payable annually or 461 semiannually; provided, however, that the first payment of 462 principal or interest may be for any period not exceeding one (1) year. Provided, however, if negotiable notes are outstanding from 463 464 not more than one (1) previous issue authorized under the provisions of this section, then the schedule of payments for a 465 new or supplementary issue may be so adjusted that the schedule of 466 467 maturities of all notes or series of notes hereunder shall, when 468 combined, mature in approximately equal installments of principal and interest over a period of ten (10) years from the date of the 469 470 new or supplementary issue, or if a lower interest rate will thereby be secured on notes previously issued and outstanding, a 471 portion of the proceeds of any issue authorized hereunder may be 472 used to refund the balance of the indebtedness previously issued 473 474 under the authority of this article. Such notes or certificates 475 of indebtedness shall be issued in such form and in such 476 denominations as may be determined by the governing authority and may be made payable at the office of any bank or trust company 477 478 selected by the governing authority. In such case, funds for the 479 payment of principal and interest due thereon shall be provided in the same manner provided by law for the payment of the principal 480 481 and interest due on bonds issued by the governing authority. For the prompt payment of notes or certificates of 482 483 indebtedness at maturity, both principal and interest, the full faith, credit and resources of the issuing entity are pledged. 484 485 Furthermore, the governing authority may annually levy a special 486 tax in an amount not to exceed three (3) mills upon all of its taxable property, the avails of which shall be paid into a sinking 487 488 fund and used exclusively for the payment of principal of and 489 interest on the notes or certificates of indebtedness. H. B. No. 861

indebtedness shall mature in approximately equal installments of

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- 493 The proceeds of any notes or certificates of 494 indebtedness issued under the provisions of this section shall be placed in a special fund and shall be expended only for the 495 purpose or purposes for which they were issued as shown by the 496 resolution authorizing the issuance thereof. If a balance shall 497 remain of the proceeds of such notes or certificates of 498 indebtedness after the purpose or purposes for which they were 499 500 issued shall have been accomplished, such balance shall be used to pay such obligations at or before maturity and may be transferred 501 502 to any sinking fund previously established for the payment 503 thereof.
- (6) Proceeds from the sale of notes or certificates of indebtedness not immediately necessary for expenditure shall be invested in the same manner as surplus funds of the governing authority may be invested.
- 508 Regardless of the method of paying for the creation of a 509 geographic information system or for the preparation of a multipurpose cadastre, and notwithstanding anything in the 510 511 Mississippi Public Records Act Section 25-61-1 et seq., to the contrary, a county or municipality which has created or acquired a 512 geographic information system or prepared a multipurpose cadastre 513 514 may assess a fee or charge in accordance with the provisions of Section 25-61-7(2). However, all fees shall be subject to a 515 516 standard scale adopted by the governing authority. governing authority has issued notes or certificates of 517 indebtedness, any fees shall be deposited into the sinking fund 518 519 and used exclusively for payment of principal and interest on the notes or certificates of indebtedness until paid in full. 520 521 Thereafter, the fees shall be deposited into the county's or

municipality's general fund.

523 **SECTION 6.** This act shall take effect and be in force from 524 and after July 1, 2003.